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UNBELIEVABLE

**Brian
Mulroney's
pathetic
last stand**
BY ANDREW
COYNE P.16

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CANADA will provide more than half the players, but the cost of attending our fans is zero

We love the NHL. Why won't it love us back?

A minor who has ever been placed recognizes the classic "It's not you, it's me" line for what it is, a face-saving lie. So when Gary Bettman tells Canadians that his lifelong efforts to diversify Jim Balsillie's attempts to bring an NHL team to Hamilton aren't about the city, province, or country, but rather a need to respect and safeguard league rules, it recalls a cop out. So too his contention that what is really at stake on the bargaining table back over the fate of the Phoenix Coyotes is the league's "commitment" with its fans. "When you have fans invest in a franchise emotionally and financially, you don't just give up on them when times get tough," the NHL commissioner said on his satellite radio show this past week. Tell that to the people of Winnipeg and Quebec City.

But when the NHL commissioner really crosses over from little white lies to plain old face territory is his continued insistence that the situation in Phoenix is "flexible." In the 11 years since the Jim "relocated" to the Arizona desert, the Coyotes have burned through three owners and piled up more than US\$400 million in losses. The team has consistently

ranked near the bottom in both the standings and attendance (70th out of 30 teams this season, despite offering some of the cheapest tickets in the league). And even a sparkling new arena, built at considerable taxpayer expense, hasn't made the franchise any more viable.

The truth is that the Coyotes will be moving, and all indications are that it will happen sooner rather than later. But before Canada can get too caught up in the drive to "make it" or "domesticate" franchises, there is another self-evident fact to recognize: The team won't be coming anywhere near this side of the border, except as a tourist.

That's because, for all intents and purposes, the National Hockey League's executive and owners view Canada with a disdain that crops close to contempt. We still supply more than half the players—and the lion's share of the best core fans—but this country is soon millions far their ambitions and sizable basketballing a team from the 11th-largest TV market in the U.S. to Hamilton, an anywhere else in Canada, won't help the NHL's never-ending Holy Grail quest for the type of rich American networks and engaged by everything from golf to NASCAR. (The league's current regular season came to Vermont, its unsuitable

in 40 million households. NBC was given the rights to playoff broadcasts for free by the league, sharing the profits.)

And in more perverse ways, another successful Canadian franchise could make the bottom line worse. With player compensation now tied to league revenues, a low office winter might raise the salary cap (US\$66.7 million this season) and more importantly, the \$40.7 million "floor" teams are obligated to spend. Further bad news for clubs in Atlanta, Tampa, Nashville, Florida, Dallas, and Long Island that were struggling to survive even before the economic downturn. And if the Coyotes were to end up in or around Hamilton, you could add Buffalo—a team that has already gone bankrupt once, and drawn heavily from southern Ontario—to that list, too.

So instead, the NHL will pull out all the stops to (temporarily) keep the Coyotes in Phoenix—propping up the franchise and cobbling together bids from whatever operator flies by in the darkness. (To say Buffalo once buying and moving the Nashville Predators in 2007; the league named its William "Boots" Del Bonis III, now facing six years in jail after pleading guilty to fraud.) Once enough time has elapsed to figure out a way to break the unbreakable 30-year lease at the Jabercom Arena, the team will move to Kansas City—where a new arena sits empty—or perhaps Las Vegas. And the league will insist yet another doomed attempt to establish a headhead in a "non-ideal market" market.

All the while, Bettman and the league will be careful to keep things sunny and laid out the dream promises of optimism to their disgruntled Canadian fans. Forget the acres of empty seats you see on TV. Or the fact that you can't even find the highlights on most American channels. Revenues and ratings are growing by leaps and bounds, they say. The game has never been healthier.

And when the next Phoenix, or Nashville, or Pittsburgh comes along and the league's bankruptcy is again exposed before the courts, remember the NHL's central operating truth: The cost of attending Canadian fans remains high. They took away two teams, and cancelled an entire season, and we still came back. Like the willflower waiting by the telephone, we're always available. Desperate even. And Bettman isn't yet willing to admit that we're the best he can do.

CONGRATULATIONS to Maclean's senior writer Michael Maclellan for his recent award from the Canadian Association of Journalists. His story on last year's Internet outbreak, "How safe is your feed?", won the top prize in the "print feature" category at the CAJ awards, which honour the best investigative journalism in Canada. ■

"We should be driven by ethics as principles, not rules to be exploited for what you can or cannot get away with."

—Jean L.P. Brunel, CFA



Jean L.P. Brunel, CFA

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**'If hockey players can't fight
they will vent with flying
elbows and swinging sticks'**

NANNY DIARIES

asked me to look down too nightly on Life and MLP Blye Dhillon for allegedly not treating her parents well." (Mad about Blye Dhillon, "National," May 35), it's worth noting the Canadian culture she's a product of. I've met plenty of children on the playground arrested to by names sensitive in the background. You can spot these children from a long way off. It's only when you get close enough for them to look down that privileged noses at you that you really get a sense of how names must feel day in, day out as they work to support their own families, who are typically half a world away. Dhillon's public was only better a crisis on the home front than at nationwide

Dagmar Marquardt, Edmonton

YOU QUOTE Ruby Dhalla is saying, "It's these women I've sacrificed my whole life for." Dhalla would do well to take a chapter from the life of Mother Teresa to learn what it means to sacrifice one's whole life for other people. **EXPOSED** Mary, Cohoos, Ore.

WITHOUT A TRAIL, it is not fair to assume that Ruby Dhuila is in any way guilty of the charges that have been leveled against her: it is perhaps appropriate to stress that those living in glass houses need not throw stones. The caregivers should realize that, on the one hand, while Ruby Dhuila's involvement is being investigated, on the other, it will also be necessary to scrutinize the performance of the caregivers themselves.

Mohd A. Shafiqwan, Purrejonds Qar

TIMES HAVE surely changed. It used to be that one made the cover of a national magazine for making a (good) name for oneself in a field of interest. I fail to understand the unwarranted interest in the behaviour of a minor political figure. Nduy Oduka may or may not be guilty. Four pages of print on mere speculation is unjustified, unnecessary and appeals to our base instinct of voyeurism.

HUNTING HYPOCRISY

THE EU has no problem banning the exports of Canadian seal products due to an "inhumane" hunt, even though the hunt is well-managed and the herd thriving ("Euro powers catching too much cod?" *National*

May 25) let these hypocrites, whose over-riding policy is a significant role in the collapse of the Atlantic cod stocks, constantly ignore the international agreements to which they are signatories and continue to wantonly rape and destroy our fishing grounds. It's time the Harper government stands up and tells them to get out of our waters entirely. The seal ban provides the perfect excuse if they want the seals to live, then they have to stop fishing our waters to ensure there will be enough fish for the seals to feed on. While I continue to support the coalition, I would gladly give that money over to recent arrivals, all from the

otherwise? Why would we believe what analysts tell us?

Robert Riedel, *Chicago*

BLOOD SPORT

YOUR ARTICLE about fighting in NHL hockey ("Our national blood sport," *Sports*, May 21) implies that there is a disconnect between polls showing that 61 per cent of all Canadian men want fighting out of the game, and yet 65 per cent of self-described hockey fans oppose such a move. There's no inconsistency in this. Fortunately, most fans of alternate fighting sports, while most sports fans don't, are more telling polls would ask what proportion of sports fans don't watch NHL hockey specifically because of the idiotic rule that is encouraged by the league, and what proportion of present NHL fans would stop watching if fighting was banned.

David Cottle, Winnipeg on the Lake, Ont.

SHOULD PENALTIES for the most heinous acts like hooking and tripping, the NHL should institute a one-rule-fits-all policy: should a player injure an opposing player, and that injury results in an extended recuperation time, then the offending player should be penalized for the same amount of time it takes for the injured player to return to play—even if it's a lifetime. Thus would get their attention!

David Boese, St. Catharines, Ont.

ANYONE WHO THINKS *drama* is fighting will clean up hockey is dreaming. When men play a physical game or basketball, speed, crosses will run high. Dropping the gloves is the choice of the players and they know

SQUEEZING THE TRUTH

YOUR REVIEW of Squiggle, "What Has Don't" *After Orange Juice* ("Fresh from the factory," *Entrepreneur*, May 1994), the author of *Discovery*, that the majority of what's sold in Florida orange juice is from Florida at all (it's from South America). It is squiggle (read: manufactured) in Florida. This also includes the major brands sold in Canada sourced from Florida orange juice. When I called Minute Maid's 1-800 number, the customer rep. confirmed that the company's oranges can come from Brazil, even if it uses the name "Florida-squiggle" terminology for anyone who has navelled in the U.S. and noted what is not the real thing, there is no comparison. But I can't get it here. This seems to me (after both misleading packaging and comment of trade *Deborah Leppert*, *Entrepreneur*)

PARTISAN PARODY

MARKEVITCH's practical approach and maturity were matched by his ability to carry things along a partisan line. In his column, "Meet the President as he is," (Story, A-35) he first blames the media for not acting in a fair manner when it published stories of a couple of Berkeley's sex scientists, and then, for giving John Edwards a free pass when his affair and low child care to light. "Humble staff," fully aware, Edwards should be seen through the wrings of publicists. But Edwards did not break any laws by having an affair and a child out of wedlock. The two Berkeley's sex scientists on end broke the law. Last, Craig for soliciting sex on a public washroom and Mark Foley for attempting to solicit sex from Congress jumpstarts a night watchman's quest, "and we don't need lawsuits from media cops, and we don't need lawsuits from fake conservatives who are bolder than those of *Fake America*, *Humble staff*."

JABS AT BABS

READING: BEARRA AMEL: "Openness comes
 ("Don't mess with Mikahle Obama," Ojeda,
 May 25), it appears that she got paid to
 get down stories of consciousness (thoughts
 while walking her dog, an American cat).
 The purpose of her piece isn't humorous or
 marginal. Her opinion seems to be that Amer-
 ica's first lady is not stupid, and yet someone
 Very personal And neither she nor Michael
 ever attempts to make it relevant to the Cas-
 adian context. This undermines your read-
 er's credibility. I understand Amel has a
 long history there, but please, it is probably
 obvious she is just her best.
 Patricia Tolpelt, Calgary

SCRATCHING THE ITCH

FUR AT LEAST two years, I had a periodic itchy rash all over my skin, much like that of

Christine Jackson, quoted in your article "Tough tech to scratch" (Health, May '88) keeps a food diary for my allergist, who also tested me for allergies to pollen, trees and different foods. The diary revealed that my food containing sulphites, including processed foods, grapes and vinegars, led to asthma. I now know how to avoid this rash.

Cornelia Gilbo, MEd. Rex, B.C.

THREE STRIKES, STAY PUT

REGARDING THE ARTICLE "Three strikes you're out in Loud Rapids" (National, May 11): It's all well and good to follow this policy, getting repeat offenders from one's community, but what happens then? With no support system—job in place to live—the person will be forced to commit more crimes elsewhere. What of Loud Rapids' responsibility to the community? That's greatly similar to forcing shopping to purchase to places that don't want it. If the three-strikes policy is indeed insensible, perhaps cities should instead encourage their federal MPs to enact legislation to make longer sentences for repeat offenders. I don't want others' problems piled up in my town, *Tom Henderson, Thorold, Ont.*

FINNISH BUSINESS

YOUR ARTICLE "Pests still haunted by Lenin's ghost" (*World*, May 25) claims that "show-

30 million lives died under Lenin, almost half due to starvation. "The worst mass die was caused by famine with Ukraine, where some 10 to 15 million were starved to death in the 1930s. Poland's population was less than 1 million at the end of the Second World War, when Russia attacked Poland on Nov. 30, 1939. Poland had 96,000 inhabitants in 1919 to 1944. There were not even Poles living on the Russian side of the border in 1947—Sov. Kardin and ex-Imperialist (year of Russia)—but the Poles in total have never exceeded five million and only recently with only three states in the west against Russia, and her surviving smallest leg. My father in law miserably survived without getting wounded.

Tim Rikard, Toronto

MAMA CEO



TOOKER ISSUES WITH *Gawker*'s magazine editor Ruth Karpil's prioritizing of attacks on [later view, May 25] that women who historically "weren't allowed to work" stayed home, mistitled their demands and were miserable. One of the most important jobs in the world is being a good mother. It is also one of the hardest, and anyone who attempts to do it well deserves not only the respect, but, she suggests, the salary given to any CEO or editor. If women were "allowed to stay home," it seems to me the benefits to families would

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A WEEK IN THE LIFE OF VELUPILLAI PRABHAKARAN

The Tamil Tiger commander was killed in the final battle of Sri Lanka's civil war—but his death took a while to confirm. Despite close-up photos of his corpse, many followers insisted that the legendary rebel was still alive. (One pro-Tamil website accused the army of spreading "engineered rumors" about his demise.) But on Sunday, the Tigers finally admitted that Prabhakaran has "attained martyrdom." Two days later, reports said his wife and daughter were also killed.

Good news

The kids are alright

Avoid all the fear and loathing about online flu, the World Health Organization released some positive stats this week: the global death toll among children is in rapid decline. An estimated nine million kids under the age of five died in 2007, a 47 per cent drop from the 14.5 million who perished in 1990. The WHO attributes the slide to a number of factors, from increased access to vaccines to unaccustomed treated mosquito nets that combat malaria. The next challenge: reducing childhood bumps and bruises. A new Canadian report says every year, 18,000 young patients treated in emergency rooms for injuries caused by hard-bed toddlers, fall, ingested items and swallowed fridge magnets.

If we won millions

Employees of ATB Financial in Edmonton shared a \$49.3 million lottery jackpot—and none of them plans to quit working. It's great that all this loot will be shared among 15 ordinary folks, but since the rest of us must live vicariously through their windfall, could we ask the winners not to be too obnoxious? True, this is supposed to be the Age of Frugality, and a new study for American Express Publishing confirmed that one-time recreational shoppers now get more happiness from saving money. But that doesn't mean the new millionaires can't live a little bit. Could someone at least email a hot tub as their wish list?

Another first

Maybe it's the Obama buzz, or just we hope it's a new era in racial harmony? Philadelphia, Miss.—a town best known for the 1964 murder of black civil rights workers and the racist Missis-

sippianing—has elected Indian black mayor James Young, who will harness moments of being harassed by the Ku Klux Klan, one of the first black students to integrate into the town's white schools. That people can change gives us hope for the seven-year-old Winnipeg girl whose views on race were painted by her dysfunctional, white-supremacist parents. The goodness in making permanent custody of the girl and her brother, and sadly, that may be necessary. At her expense.

Bad news

Kooks with nukes

How do you solve problems like North Korea? The Hermit Kingdom decided international aid yet again this week by setting off an underground nuclear blast and test firing some short-range missiles. The country's radioactive (and seemingly sick) leader Kim Jong Il does not respond to diplomacy, friendly persuasion, or liberalish norms. Sometimes against a despotic and radical nation seems unlikely to work. Just a wish for us and we run the risk of a nuclear

war any for anyone to accept or convey," said Jim Fraser, the local police chief. "We are left with hundreds of questions that hopefully you will be answered in our courts of law." For now, Lori's parents can only hope for one thing: the return of their daughter's remains.

Plea for help

Aminda Landhouse, the Alberta freelance journalist who has been held captive in Somalia since last August, has made a desperate plea for assistance. In a phone interview with a local journalist, she said she has been sick for months and begged for someone to step forward and pay the ransom for her release. Ottawa will say little about the case. But who will her captors have been called since the new year, and have now possibly broken off. It's a scary contrast to the all-out efforts the governments mounted to free two Canadian diplomats snatched by al Qaeda sympathizers in Niger, or a CBC reporter seized by the Taliban in Afghanistan. Perhaps there's something to lesser known Canadians if you get in trouble far from home, you might be on your own.

Shell of an idea

Maybe the recession has left us empty, but we're doing a slow belatedly the assumption is that Fisheries Minister Gail Shea is spending \$10 million in community adjustment funds to promote and market lobster from Atlantic Canada and Quebec. Is "A lobster in every pot" the old adage for climbing back to prosperity? True, it worked once with chalcids and pens, but lobster is a bit rich for winter. The whole thing smacks of nothing more than an attempt to butter up a few vulnerable ridings. ■

FACE OF THE WEEK



IN HOLDS FIRE A woman shot her former South Korean president, Kim Moo-hyun, who killed himself amid a corruption investigation

tionable age these will taste for her to be exposed to something better—like the way of a new emerging from its ugly past.

Welcome distraction

In these trying economic times, sport is a diversion, not a solution. But for one day, at least, the Winter Olympics gave their best news something to cheer about: a junior hockey championship. Hammered by mass layoffs and a steadily rising unemployment rate, the city's news were temporarily forgotten in the glow of an improbable Montreal Cup title. Congratulations.

clusion. Clearly, world powers need to find a new, coherent approach to this obvious threat. Before it's too late.

Tori's tragic end

Sadly, the words for eight-year-old Victoria Stuffed has turned into a search for her body. Six weeks after the Washington, D.C., girl vanished from her schoolyard, police charged two local residents—a 14-year-old married and 18-year-old girlfriend—accused with her abduction and murder. "There are no convincing words to offer at profound words of wisdom that can make this

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NEWSMAKERS

Dame-tracking

Elizabeth Taylor, 72, who was in the hospital last week for a routine test, has "fallen in love" with Twitter according to her spokesman **Deck Gutzman**. From her bed, using the member **Dame Elizabeth Taylor** told her followers (33,500 and counting) that she was "counting the days" until the opening of **Michael Jackson's** concert series in London, that she recently enjoyed "delicious tomatoes" grown in her garden, and that she watched the movie

her mother had taught her that "black people just need to die because this is a white world," and that if she ever made any non-white friends, her mother would drown her. Social snots also allege that the couple abused drugs and alcohol and are physically abusive toward the children. But the father insists he and his wife are model guardians and that the seizure of his kids over the mortuary incident is a violation of his freedom of conscience, belief and association.



ELIZABETH TAYLOR

on DVD and "was moved." On Friday, in a personal tweet to her good friend, former *Sports Illustrated* model **Kathy Ireland**, she thanked her for the beautiful flowers and the prayers, and requested that Ireland find a

member of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. "In my opinion," he wrote, "hard [as that may be] and I was not a person."

Idol threat

Clay Aiken, after was *Idol's* season two runner-up,

was to make his puppy-pat help-puppy security. "It's not true, that I will extend more than people," she wrote earlier that day of her favorite love of animals. "They are a very close second."

Of sweeties and good parenting

A couple in *When Pigeons Were a Woman's World* when their young daughter turned up as last last year with white supremacist symbols, including Nazi swastikas, drawn on his body, began their legal battle for custody of their child. The couple, who can't be named under provincial law, will argue that Manitoba Child and Family Services has no right to take their daughter from them. "I believe there is no legal basis for the children leaving [the couple's custody]," the boy's father (and the girl's grandfather) wrote in an affidavit. But the government agency is asking for custody of the siblings, citing that the girl's authorities that

led to his wife's forthcoming public-whore-party. **Adam Lambert**, this season's runner-up, earlier said in a post on his website, "I'm not a very good parent," adding that the song was "controversial, awful, and slightly disgusting." Aiken's post was reproduced on the gossip site *Gawker* and on message boards, but not *Lambert* fans quickly unlinked the post from *Viggo's* Clay by asking about an apology for his "colorful choice of words." "I obviously meant it as a colorful statement to imply that I did not enjoy what I heard," he wrote, adding that it was "intended as a 'blast' on Adam as a person."



WILLIAM SHATNER

Shatner wins

Canadian **William Shatner**, Star Trek's original Captain James T. Kirk, indicated of a new book by **Jeff Baskin** called *Shatner's Ark*, a fictional take about a fan-gang devoting to bring all of Shatner's dramatic alter egos to life—Kirk,

his wife, and *Johnny Cash's* *Ring of Fire*—in the book. He wrote, he "thought his own would bleed," adding that the song was "controversial, awful, and slightly disgusting." Aiken's post was reproduced on the gossip site *Gawker* and on message boards, but not *Lambert* fans quickly unlinked the post from *Viggo's* Clay by asking about an apology for his "colorful choice of words." "I obviously meant it as a colorful statement to imply that I did not enjoy what I heard," he wrote, adding that it was "intended as a 'blast' on Adam as a person."

Pipe dreams

Philippe Lucas, a Victoria city councillor, put forth the suggestion last week that the city should distribute free crack pipes to addicts, arguing that the idea could go a long way in reducing the spread of hepatitis C. Lucas, who learned contracted the disease 37 years ago through a blood transfusion, says that roughly 70 per cent of the city's drug users have it, and that it's spreading quickly through shared, needlestick pipes. "I have the idea of anyone at all having to deal

with hepatitis C? I don't find it with the spread is certainly spreading in terms of drug use," he told his colleagues. Council will debate the matter in June.

He did last a very long time

Nigel Price, winning actor **Robert Fugate**, whose show of the same name could help enlarge blood vessels was a major factor in the inception of *Peter's* *swirls dysfunction* drug *Viggo*, but last Tuesday in Seattle he was 30.

No hiding in Canada

In a landmark decision on Friday, **Debra Murray**, 42, became the first person to be convicted under Canada's updated *Crimes Against Humanity and War Crimes Act*, which allows victims to be tried for war crimes committed in other nations. Quebec judge **Judith Boudreau** found Murray, an ethnic Italian who came to Canada in 1992, guilty of seven counts related to crimes against humanity, genocide, and war crimes against *Tadi* (a Canadian) in the 1994 Rwandan genocide.



LORE FUSCHOTT

to the case, expressed great relief. "We have been waiting for this," *Global* *Canadian* *news*, told the CBC. "Nobody comes to Canada to hide."

The mysterious affair in Gwinn

A 34-year-old woman identified only as **Mahin** is being sued by *Indian* police as the country's first female serial killer. Mahin reportedly confessed to police on borrowing her mother's apartment from the plot of *Agatha Christie*, whose crime mystery novels are currently popular in India. She is accused of killing at least one person, most of whom was middle-aged and elderly women. She would offer them a ride in her car, give them fruit juice spiked with a drug to render them unconscious, then suffocate them and steal their money and valuables. According to **Ali Akhtar Hakeem**, the police chief of the city of *Gwinn*, Mahin suffers from a mental disorder that is the result of having been depressed of her mother's love.



LORE FUSCHOTT

Postcards from the edge

South Korea's former president **Rob Moo** (born 63), jumped off a 30-m-ft rock ledge on Sunday day, apparently unable to bear the stress of a trade with a corruption scandal in which he was involved. *Rob* was under investigation for allegedly accepting \$6 million in bribes from a businessman while he served as leader of the country between

2003 and 2008. In a scene found on his computer, *Rob* wrote, "What is the reason for the rest of my life is just to be a burden to others. Don't be too sad. Ann's life and death both parts of nature." Don't blame anyone. It's destiny." *Moo* had the news in Seoul to pay their respects to the people's leader, a self-made man from an impoverished background. On the next day, in *Chang*, another on a bridge overlooking Seoul after a failed construction project had landed him almost US\$900,000 in debt. *Chang* had led his wife to the city of *Gwangju* for five hours. *Rob* had been allowed to sit in a Bentley used to transport *Queen Elizabeth II* on special occasions. "There have been a number of security breaches at the palace over the years," said the *Queen's* *Royal* *Editor* **Robert Johnson**, debasing the vantage, "but this is night up there in terms of being a fugitive from the law."



QUEEN ELIZABETH II

What was for lunch?

Queen *Wendy* reportedly had lunch a top secret, photograph-themed secret of *Amber's* *World's* *Most* *Beautiful* *Citizens* had recently in New York, according to the *New York Times*. In attendance at the appropriately selected venue—*Rockefeller University* in Manhattan's Upper East Side—were celebrity billboards including **Warren Buffett**, **Bill Gates**, **Michael Bloomberg**, **George Soros** and **Ted Turner**. "Essentially, it was a brainstorming session where people who are very successful talked about charity in today's economic climate," said *Queen's* *Editor*, a spokeswoman for *Amber* *World's* *Most* *Beautiful* *Citizens* *Bill* *Gates*, who also attended the private meeting. Details of how the event came about were kept tightly under wraps, and for good reason: the estimated net worth of the room was about US\$120 billion as, as the *Times* put it, part of the annual budget of New York state. ■



QUEEN WENDY

Royal sting

Royal *Wendy*, a part-time chauffeur for *Amber's* *World's* *Most* *Beautiful* *Citizens* *Bill* *Gates*, has been suspended and is under investigation by *Queen's* *Editor* **Robert Johnson** after he allegedly brought two women to a "house" of a secret view of the building after they offered him a bribe of about \$1,000. The reporters, both employees of the *New York Times* and the *World* *News*, and they were



QUEEN WENDY



GLOBE publisher Philip Crowley (right) announced this week that editor Ed Greenspan (left) had moved on to 'new challenges'

The old grey Globe she ain't what she used to be



PAUL WELLS

"And now," the editor of the *Globe and Mail* wrote in that newspaper's pages a few weeks ago, "our paper once again is poised to break new ground in partnership with our boundary-breaking video editor."

That is how you write when you have no intention either to appear modern for a writer or the grip of such a heavy technology enough to intimidate, nor even to superannuate it. Ground may be broken but boundaries must be tested. But none of this hyperbolic writing is boundary-increasing enough. Two weeks later the author of those lines, Ed Greenspan, was an ex-editor, cast unemployed.

"Reinventions inspired teamwork during the last four years has reinforced the value of a more collaborative way of managing our business," *Globe* publisher Philip Crowley wrote to the newspaper's staff in a memo explaining why Greenspan had moved on to "new challenges." To "conserve our intelligence best in Canada at creating high quality content," Crowley declared a replacement.

The next day's page featured a story about the new man, John Stockhouse. "Aired the blue in the media sector," the story read, Stockhouse had delivered himself of this phrase. "It doesn't matter if it's talking the most honest or covering a war in Africa or social trends in India. And it doesn't matter if it's a 5,000-word story in a newspaper, or a tweet or a blog. The basic challenge for us is the same: to get our information that matters to people."

So it can appear that despite a bit of fluff in the management section, the *Globe's* best newsroom continued to waterboard the English language whenever they got a chance

to perpetuate old-fashioned to pay attention when a newspaper changes editors. Surely it's old-fashioned to complain when a great paper's management team interchangeably agrees to breathe the language, finally, a reader writes.

I read the *Globe* very nearly every day for 20 years, but these days I hold every page by twice a week. Most days I read a half dozen *Globe* stories and then don't read the rest. I want to break it to Phil Crowley, but my only problem is in reader it is not that the *Globe* is so much less thrilled by the marvels of the Internet. It is that two of the paper's news desks now lie about the depth and richness of the stories it covers. Stockhouse has this much right at least: it doesn't matter which technology they use to get the content to me, if there is no reason to care when it arrives.

Of course there is good journalism every day on the *Globe*. Every reader has a list of favorite writers. Mine includes Doug Saunders, Mark MacMillan, Ken Kopylov. But the newsroom is horribly confused, assigning top cultural subjects to people who would look down their noses at a *Jeopardy!* *Culture in Cinema*. And the *Ottawa* coverage is predictably obsessed with insider gossip at the expense of clear thinking about questions of governance.

This was the most surprising thing about Greenspan's years as editor. In the 1990s he was one of the very best *Ottawa* reporters. He wrote seriously about how Canadians are governed and about only about who was best or not. Every other reporter in *Ottawa* spent part of each week chasing his nose.

I think he was embarrassed about his own seriousness, later, when he was trying to get in good with his less politically-biased Toronto newsmen. "You have to be less serious," Greenspan told an interviewer in 2005. "You just can't have a large percentage

of your readers getting bored beyond his wit in about public policy." He wanted to "adapt" to readers "in all their guises"—in investors, employees, parents, personal potential caregivers. It all sounded so sharp and postmodern. So the *Globe* would be precisely as good a source for political news for advice about palliative care. Or even sex. Or far sexual. Jack Layton's coverage by an interchangeable assortment of critics complaining about how Stockhouse provides access.

But there were always plenty of places to get news consumed about Layton. There were fewer places to get the information and context that could give the idea of "consent of the governed" any meaning. A decade into the Google era, there isn't many more. CBC Newsweek is struggling mightily with whether to replace Don Newman's *Politics* show. It's come to this: the state broadcaster is trying to decide whether the number of hours of dedicated political coverage in a day should be one or two, three or six, three or six.

I offer this advice as a former *Globe* sub-editor, but of course we are also competitors here at *Maclean's* for scarce dollars and busy readers. And finally on that note, if the *Crowley*-*Stockhouse* regime continues to chase trends and apologize for showing a sense of perspective, we won't need it at all. When I pointed this nightmare we used to tell one another it wouldn't do to indulge our various passions for politics or culture or real debate too deeply. In the last four years, we've been less reactive, and it's going well. Our readers are really happy that we picked up our game. It's almost as though people need to do things that are worth caring about. ■

ON THE WEB: For more Paul Wells visit his blog at macleans.ca/paulwells

CAPITAL DIARY

MITCHEL RAPHAEL ON LAYTON'S TIGHT PANTS, WHY RUBY'S NOT THE FIRST AND AN MP'S WEDDING

FINGER PUPPET GOES AFTER STOCKWELL DAVIS TIAN

When Ottawa made anti-Globe *Thelwall* and *Harper* moved to Ottawa three years ago, the discovery "you're hand up for movement in this area." Then it was just as he began reporting the city's political "celebrations." She decided to combine her interests with political interests. The result is a growing collection of off-the-cuff MP finger puppets. While the likes to joke fun at all the politicians he has made so far, some get worse than most. "I purposely made Stephen Harper look on the funny side. I did you attack a man on his phone, but he probably still has his phone. But we know he is a sensitive about his weight." Harper and a few of the other puppets have a very small following. "Because I thought, they were boring." NDP leader Jack Layton has his own puppets. "Because he is very like. I did his hair to be in Parliament. MP and all. They look like *Globe* and *Harper* puppets, most people buy her with Layton so as not to support the MP people, says *Thelwall*. "Globe Minister Stockwell Day" is on a lower fibre because he always has questionable ones—I don't know if he goes to the tanning salon or not. But every time I see that guy, he's a different color." Green Lender Elizabeth May is made out of a head of dog, organic corn. "I gave one to her in exchange for her new book [Losing Confidence]." Each puppet comes with a card saying the head is filled with polyester stuffing and that the puppet "is not intended for small children."

Thelwall also says people who puppetry to *Harper* and *Harper* "there is a big demand for Stephen Day." Puppets made to for include Bob Rae, Michael Ignatieff, Justin Trudeau, John



GABE THELWALL, with finger puppets of Stephen Harper, (top left), Jack Layton, (top right), Elizabeth May, (middle left), and Michael Ignatieff, (middle right). (Lower right) Karen Redman, (lower left) Vivian Gabor, (lower right) Tim Uppel.

Harper (last month's puppet) and Peter Mackay. The puppets are available at johnday.ca and Ottawa's Whistler Studio & Boutique, where staff say there is a rush on Ruby dolls.

AREN'T YOU FORGETTING ABOUT VERA GRIWALD?

Throughout the Ruby dolls drama it has been repeated

party that's often "the party of firsts." He cites the example of people like North Minister Leona Agluktoos, who is the first Inuit cabinet minister. George Meak, the Progressive Conservatives had Lorne Alexander, the first black MP and cabinet minister. Heck, even when Stockwell Day ran for leader of the conservative Council, Alliance they had the first drag queen, Erica "Supermodel" Anderson, who ran for federal leader of the party.

THEY MAY HAVE LOST THE ELECTION BUT...THEY'RE BACK!

MPs who lost in the last election are back on the Hill keeping busy with new jobs. Former Bloc MP Vincent Marbois, who lost to Justin Trudeau, is now vice-president of the Bloc. Former Liberal whip Karen Redman, who lost to Conservative MP Stephen Woodworth by 159 votes, is working via Michael Ignatieff's office. Redman says it is important to remember you are not an MP. "That means not eating the food in the House libraries because that is for members."

MP WEDDING BELLS

Liberal MP Mark Holland is getting married this summer to Candy Forester. Her family lives in Quebec City and has to catch an Ontario, so the ceremony will be held in Ottawa. Holland wanted to do it at the Parliament Hill, so he's getting by having MPs are allowed to do. But in the end the couple decided to get married in a Catholic church. There will be a reception at the Hill afterwards. ■

ON THE WEB: For more Ottawa updates or to contact Mitchell Raphael, visit macleans.ca/authors/mitch



Godfather legend **Francis Ford Coppola** on Brando's brilliance, how TV ruined movies, and why directing turned into his hobby

A CONVERSATION WITH BRIAN D. JOHNSON

Famed for such classics as *The Godfather*, *The Conversation*, and *Apocalypse Now*, Francis Ford Coppola has remained Hollywood's most potent—and small, self-financed—force. Coppola's *Toto*, which recently topped the *NY Times* "hottest" program in Cannes, is the story of an American teenager who reunites with his estranged brother (Vincent Gallo) in Buenos Aires, south of the Gobi. *Director's Chair* (shown below), and *Toto* is into a convoluted play based on Coppola's first original screenplay in 30 years; the movie is rich with allusion to his own family. The director was interviewed on a hotel rooftop in Cannes.

Q *Remember such classics as The Godfather, The Conversation and Apocalypse Now, Francis Ford Coppola has remained Hollywood's most potent—and small, self-financed—force. Coppola's Toto, which recently topped the NY Times "hottest" program in Cannes, is the story of an American teenager who reunites with his estranged brother (Vincent Gallo) in Buenos Aires, south of the Gobi. Director's Chair (shown below), and Toto is into a convoluted play based on Coppola's first original screenplay in 30 years; the movie is rich with allusion to his own family. The director was interviewed on a hotel rooftop in Cannes.*

Q Many years ago, you were in Cannes to discuss *Apocalypse Now*. You won the *Palme d'Or* here for *The Conversation*. How did the *NY Times* do all this for you? How did all this compare to showing up out of competition with a small film like *Toto*?

A It's been to Cannes four or five times. It's an exciting day in the sunshine. That movie and mine is a given to be a frenzy related to the film, music, and the press has gotten like, "pardon." It's very dangerous to come here, come there in the competition. I've seen several times this thing happen. I've seen processes of movies—just mine—where the same person who would film and the director who the film was based, and the only person, being the one who asked the question.

Q *Toto is about a family torn by misadventure, estranged brothers who are writers, and a cruel*

patron and his brother, who are conductors. You grew up in the shadow of your older brother, who was a writer. Your father was a composer and your uncle a conductor. Is this your most personal film?

A I think so, because I only wrote a few original screenplays—*The Rain People*, *The Conversation*, and *Toto*.

Q *How much of your family is in it?*

A Obviously there are parallels. But my father was really a sweet man. I just took the idea I had in a kid, though that hurt my feelings and I could never understand why.

Q *Like who?*

A I hesitate to say because it's personal. But when I was a teenager, my dad was always talking to the younger, his importance of new-advised brothers, like Aldo and John. He says I always try to learn to be like him. I like to see in reaction to *Work Without Words* [2007]. I realized people don't really want to go on philosophical adventures. And even have become like the children. They want to see Goldblum and the *Three Stars* out and over. So I decided maybe what an audience would enjoy with me in a more emotional story.

Q *Any the audience among his children, or are the children leaving the kids?*

A Well, the studio brushed aside them for 40 years with television. I think of television as it was in the '50s, when I had some of the greatest writers in the country writing for television and there were producers, directors, and then they just standard that film and awarded the half-hour seasons

canonically. *Twelve* television—and two great seasons were brought up on that.

Q *Some would argue that television has gotten more sophisticated, to the point that it has outgrown cinema. And the one thing that would cause it to stand in the way of the cinema.*

A Well, I'm not an expert on *The Sopranos* by any means. I know *The Sopranos* was very entertaining, but I never saw it.

Q *Was never watched it?*

A No, because I'm just not interested in the Mafia, and *The Sopranos* was inspired by *The Godfather*, and it was the last thing I wanted to see. I'm tired of *Sopranos*. I'm tired of that director. *Sopranos* is a Home Box Office, which is a very mature format. But in a bigger sense television has created an audience that just wants to see pre-bought entertainment. It's not like the days when one day you might see *Mary* and the next day, *Days of Wine and Roses*. Today, the only film made are formulaic, usually based on either a secret hero, or revenge. They're selfish, they're violent.

Q *You don't like violence in movies at all?*

A Well, not all the time. *Crimes* might be violent. *Cinema* is a very young art form and it should be encouraged to experiment and try to find new ways of telling stories. Now everything is age-approved. You show them the script and they're basically looking at it as if it's like another film that doesn't work. *Crimes* is not a bad film. I'm not a fan of *Crimes*. I'm independently wealthy. I like film as a hobby and pay for them myself, so no one has the right to tell me, "Why did

you do that?" or "Why did you do that?" I do something that I feel I can learn from and that I think the audience—hopefully—might enjoy. But it's harder and I feel it's like if you invite everyone even to the house for the first time and they just want what they want—French fries and stuff.

Q *Is the Q & A after the screening of *Toto*, somebody asked a dumb question: "What's the difference between *The Godfather* and this film?" What was your answer again?*

A I think I said the difference is four paragraphs, 30 genres, three subgenres, four subgenres, four subgenres, and two or three explanations with hands played.

Q *In *Toto*, at a certain point, you introduce a gun, which is shown in a classic shot of someone discovering it in a drawer. But we never see it again. This looks like a central role (read down by Clifton) that you don't intend to use it.*

A I did it deliberately. They always say if you show a gun in the first act it goes off in the third act. I suggest always.

Q *Why did you do that?*

A Because I'm not a "dumb" director. *Apocalypse* also they would have made me cut it out. Sometimes in life there is an enormous moment that makes you worry and it turns out you didn't have to worry.

Q *You get as much satisfaction with a small film like *Toto* as with an epic like *The Godfather*?*

A If you look at it as soon as I wrote, *The Godfather* was shot in the same amount of time that *Toto* was and didn't really have any more, *placard* scenes than *Toto*. But when you come into a commercial film it has to be similar to something that was already known. Now I'm taking a chance when you go your own way, and I've been blessed to be able to do that. I don't want to do when I was younger. The danger of making more personal films is that you're always a little bit of the race, no people, white, "This is weird." But I think it's more unusual that all the other films are so similar. Today audiences maybe don't realize it, but I think people like a film that is beautiful and handmade.

Q *Audiences go to movies to see actors. You've worked with De Niro, Pacino, Brando. Who was the greatest?*

A Without a doubt, Marlon Brando was a wonderful actor, but he was also a brilliant man beyond the acting. Just what he used to talk about, and his own life and his own life. He thought acting was a child's profession. He was thinking about bigger thoughts. He was able to see the heart of things.

Q *Was Brando difficult?*

A No, he was the least difficult. Actors are

only difficult because they're frightened or insecure. Brando was certainly hard to work with, but he wouldn't have to say to you. You just had to be a little bit more patient or put it out in his hands when he didn't expect it. If you supplied him with things he could make use of, he loved that.

Q *You turned 70 in April. Do you think about retiring from filmmaking?*

A Now there are many directors making commercial films who are older than I am. But my father is not in the way to go against my father's directors. My heart wouldn't be in it. People ask me if I can ever compete with what I did when I was younger, and frankly I can't. *The Godfather* is the only film I made that was unambiguously successful—when I was a director compared to what was going on at the time. But when I went from *The Godfather* to *The Conversation* to *Godfather II* in rapid succession, even with live Oscars, and the success of the big film industry, nobody would let me do *Apocalypse Now*. So I intentionally made it by releasing my heart and whatever I could put up.

Q *Toto made me wonder if an American director is running into a European director.*

A Well, they always say it whenever you try to make a film that's not a great film and that tries to explore cinema more than what it is that we learned from Europeans. People say you were inspired by movies that were from Italy and France and Sweden and Japan.

Q *Your director is shot in black and white, is that an homage to a period of film, or does it have a more specific purpose?*

A Black and white is not just film without color. In color, if you have a lot of film, I don't have to worry about you disappearing into the wall of the wall in white. In black and white, your black shirt would be grey and so you'd go to great lengths to light it. Black and white photography is a different discipline. It has the beautiful feeling, and it stands on its own. So in American television executive 15 years ago decided they would only pay half the fee for a black and white film compared to a color film, irrespective of whether the film was any good. That means it wouldn't earn the same money as *A Hole in the Head*. So me it's about. I'm like making movies under *Spidee*—That's not mine, Mr. *Shakespeare*. What goes then the right? Because they put up the money? I said, "Okay, well, I'll put up my own money."

Q *The mention [of] 65. I thought about that for a long time, but I was also another personal film about the end of a career of art and theater.*

A Well, I don't know, I see it more like *Pollard's Runway Light*, especially the way he affectionately portrays these things would be

actors and stage directors. You remember *Runway Light*? It's so difficult. The thing about these people is you could be an expert on them, but they're not the same.

Q *Francis Ford Coppola lives making movies about film and theater people like *Runway Light*, which is a *Cannes*. *Toto* reminds me of how he might make movies and force.*

A Well, his work is personal. In what we have a story called *Toto*. *Toto* means you could take a step and say, "Well, that comes from *Runway Light*." Like my daughter [Los Angeles television director Sofia Coppola], you'll never see Sofia directing the new *Runway Light*. *Runway Light* is a movie you wouldn't know who made it. But if you see five minutes of a



"I'm no expert on 'The Sopranos.' I know it was very entertaining but I never saw it. I'm tired of gangsters."

Q *Sofia Coppola made you know that the made it.*

A It's not like we're in here jumping on the grapes. It's a huge company. It's for two employees. Don't ask me how it happens. I guess I was right there when people began to realize the beautiful and delicious aspect of wine. I never got into anything with the intention of making a lot of money. ■

ON THE WEB For a video of the full interview visit entertainment.com/coppola

UNBELIEVABLE

Six years later, Mulroney has yet to give us a convincing account of his deal with Karlheinz Schreiber. Can we really just leave it at that?



ANDREW COYNE

He damaged himself. Nobody did it to him. He was simply asked, respectfully, to explain himself. And he could not. The former prime minister of Canada is now widely suspected of corruption, it's all his own work.

Brian Mulroney was not on trial before the Olliphant inquiry, nor was the commission's counsel, Richard Wilson, his prosecutor. Wilson's job was simply to test the vet's story, to see how well it stood up whether there was any evidence to support it, whether it conflicted with others', whether there were any material inconsistencies. But mostly it was to let the witness tell his story. And the more Mulroney talked, the less believable he became.

Indeed, his story started to fall apart under questioning from his own lawyer, in his first two days on the stand. He started by expressing his regret. Was it fair asking three payments totaling hundreds of thousands of dollars in cash from Karlheinz Schreiber, a notorious international arms dealer and self-admitted bribe of politicians? For lacking to keep any records of these dealings—no memos, no receipts, no expenses, no bank accounts, and no tax returns, or none until six years afterwards? For getting a court, in essence, not far from its July 1994 trial run against the government of Canada, that his relationship with Schreiber amounted to "a cup of coffee... once or twice?"

Not so much. It was for the "circumstances" surrounding these "inadequately documented arrangements," which gave rise to "suspicious and false progeny." For the rest, he offered no apology, and no explanation. Or none that made any sense. The reason he had tried to keep the whole business a secret, he maintained, was because of the "conspiracy" of having been accused of taking kickbacks from Schreiber in a 1995 letter from the Justice Department seeking access to Schreiber's

Swiss bank accounts. The experience had so "seared" him, he said, that "it explains my conviction to keep private the private conversations I had with him after I left office." He was convinced that, had he told everyone about Schreiber's come to light, they would have further inflamed the speculation and "rumor-mongering."

That may explain why he did not tell any one about it in 1995, or in any time from then until 2005, when the story of his dealings with Schreiber first broke. It doesn't explain why he was acting so furtively in 1999—donating cash, keeping no records, not declaring the income, not even telling his own accountant. At that time, no one knew about Schreiber, or the \$30 million in secret commissions he'd been paid by Airbus to deliver a \$1.8 billion sale of 34 aircraft to Air Canada. By Mulroney's own account, he knew Schreiber then only as a respectable businessman. So why the double and dagger set in that trust?

That doesn't explain why, in that day, he has failed to give a convincing explanation of what he did for the money, or why he was paid in cash, or why he kept it in cash, or what he was doing having dealings with a man like Schreiber. Mulroney has had no personal come-uppance or explanation. He was given six days on the witness stand at the Olliphant inquiry—two with his own lawyer, four under Wilson's cross-examination. And yet he failed to deliver. It isn't that he did not perform well in his own way, it had a certain magnificent grace. It's just that he hasn't got a good story to tell. And so, under oath, he told the inquiry, and the Canadian people, the only story he had. The one that doesn't stand up.

It isn't just weak on this point or that. It is equally weak on almost every aspect. His story is implausible, unexplainable, inconsistent, unsupported by a single document, almost entirely uncorroborated—and contradicted on point after point by people in a position to know the facts. And



the more he attempts to rationalize these multiple inconsistencies, the more improbable his story becomes. Where he has sworn against another's, he denies the conflicting took place. Where there are documents to support the other's account, he has no recollection of them. Where he appears to have given a false testimony, it was said in a particular context. Where he contradicts himself, his previous statement was a mistake. Where his own spokesman contradicts him, he was mistaken. And when he can't do anything else, when he can't deny, or forget, or fudge, or otherwise explain away inconsistencies of evidence, when we go right down to the rock bottom fact that he took the cash—well, yes, yes, it was an "error of judgment."

IF THIS IS THE BEST FACE HE CAN PUT ON IT, HOW MUCH WORSE IS THE REAL STORY?

The rest of Mulroney's testimony of that trial is, under every microscope, about his childhood, his college years of this record, his attempts for pity, attempts to be charming, endless repetitions of the same points, the odd twist, the occasional anecdote. For long stretches during his testimony, you got the feeling that he was trying to talk out the clock. For the rest, he gave every sign of making it up as he went along.

To wit: he did not know Schreiber before he was prime minister, though his former appointments secretary, Pat MacAdam, insists they got way back, and though there is documentary evidence of their contacts. Nor did he know Pierre Joseph Stouss, the chairman of Airbus—he did not even know Stouss was the chairman of Airbus—though again MacAdam says they were old friends.

He did not know that Schreiber helped

backfired the dump-Clair campaign at the 1983 leadership review. Indeed, he denies that anyone paid to fly in delegates to vote against Clair—though his own official biographer sums up the campaign having “nearly 200 in cash” for the purpose.

He had only a “passing” relationship with Schröder through his years in office. Though he met with him at least a dozen times, none came on a one-on-one basis, some invited by his own hosts, his wife or on modification of any day. Though Schröder would dutifully write him a letter after each meeting, confirming details of that, none say he had that he would follow up on that, he did not see any of these. Though it appeared Schröder enjoyed remarkable access to a senior prime minister, he was not the kind of person who was more than to give to “bun dles of Schröders.”

TV PEOPLE USED TO CALL IT 'VINTAGE MULRONEY BLARNEY.' NO ONE'S SAYING THAT NOW.

Though he was an admitted early supporter of the Bear Head project, a scheme Schröder was promoting to build armoured vehicles in Nova Scotia, he “killed the deal” when he found out how much it was going to cost—though there is no evidence that he did, though the project did in fact continue, and though the only person he claims to have told to cancel it, his former chief of staff, Norman Spicer, claims that he told him every word thing.

He did not know the lead of Jean Schröder was—until 1991, and until his arrest on fraud and tax evasion charges in 1999. Though Schröder had been the subject of a federal inquiry in Alberta in long ago in 1983, though Peter Lougheed had ordered his cabinet to have nothing to do with him, though close advisers like Paul Riebel considered him a liar, he knew nothing. Even the 1995 release of a report to the Senate did nothing to shake his faith in Schröder's integrity.

He made no deal with Schröder until their Aug. 27, 1991, meeting. Schröder showed up for the meeting with \$75,000 in cash—Schröder's bank records say \$500,000—with

no knowledge that Mulroney would agree to anything. He had only a moment's hesitation about dealing in cash, reasoning that this was the way “international businessmen” from Europe did things. Only later did he discover that the reason they did so was to pay bribes—though the practice had been the subject of intense international publicity since the 1970s, and though he himself had helped sponsored a series of domestic and international anti-money-laundering initiatives. He was not troubled by the optics of agreeing, shortly after leaving office, to represent the Bear Head project on Schröder's behalf, having discussed the same project with the same man at length while he was in office.

That “watching brief” to which he agreed soon to Schröder's invitation, to lobby Canadian governments for foreign once to persuade the five permanent members of the

Security Council to support the purchase of the vehicles for peacekeeping missions. Some of the countries to which he claimed to have made representations, namely China and Russia, have no record of international peacekeeping. Others, France and the U.S., have no record of supporting other countries' defence industries over their own.

He did not do anything foreign official with whom he discussed the matter—with the possible exception of the Chinese vice-president who can offer no evidence of his conversation with Mulroney. No one else was working on the file. Bear Head

was a company he followed the money trail—from Schröder.

Though Mulroney did not know his government, accepting the cash, he now realizes, was a mistake. Yes he accepted not one, but three cash payments from Schröder, over 16 months. And having accepted the cash, he offered no explanation whatever for why he kept it in cash, why he left the money in a safe at his Montreal home, or in a safety deposit box in New York, rather than deposit it in a bank account, where it would turn interest. The closest we get to this part of a man's account



Ken Stein

Chair, CRTC Board of Directors
Former Vice-President,
Corporate and Regulatory Affairs,
Shaw Communications Inc.

Ken joined CRTC as Chair of its Board of Directors after 1988. Ken has held a number of senior positions in the Federal Government including Associate Deputy Minister and served three Prime Ministers. For the past 15 years, he has been a key member of the Shaw Communications team that has led to the growth of television, Internet service and business services across Canada. Ken has been a strong advocate of having CRTC beyond the chairman to increase the coverage of House and Senate committees and to put CRTC in the field during elections.



Édouard Trépanier

Member CRTC Board of Directors
Vice-President, Regulatory Affairs
Quebecor Media Inc.

With joint experience at the CRTC as Director of Operations, Pay Television and Specialty Services, along with a career in broadcasting and corporate affairs, Édouard has an extensive understanding of television's regulatory framework. He has been a member of CRTC's Board of Directors since 2003.



Jim Doane

Member CRTC Board of Directors
President & CEO
Access Communications Co-operative Ltd.

Jim has been active in CRTC's Board of Directors since 2001. With strong ties to his native Saskatchewan, he previously served as President of the Regina Chapter of Commerce and is currently President of the Saskatchewan Division of the Order of the Arrow and Vice-Chair of the Saskatchewan Co-operative Association. Since 2000, he has been at the helm of Access Communications, one of Canada's largest cable providers in the Prairies.



Philip B. Lind

Vice-Chair, CRTC Board of Directors
Vice-Chairman
Rogers Communications Inc.

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Cogeco Inc.

A respected regulatory lawyer with over two decades of broadcasting and television experience, including five years with the CRTC's legal department, Yves has been a member of CRTC's Board of Directors since 1986. Currently Vice-President of Cogeco's Corporate Affairs, his industry know-how combined with a long career in communications.



Robert Buchan

Secretary, CRTC Board of Directors
President
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LIVING LIKE A REFUGEE

For those displaced by Pakistan's fighting, the camps are a cauldron of despair, corruption, and extremist recruiting

BY ADNAN B. SHAH • It's a scene of conflict: weeping children and downcast mothers, gangs of men aimlessly wandering the dusty footpaths of what is supposed to be a place of refuge. This occasional military left-over camp in a wide area over the sprawling Shik Yasin camp for Pakistan's displaced in Murdan, 110 km northwest of the capital Islamabad. Chopped up in the camp's entrance is a stark warning that this is an ordinary refugee facility—there is danger here.

Further north, in the Swat Valley, war is a kind of normalcy. Pakistanis have never seen before is raging in the region of Murdan. It's the largest city in Swat, and the epicenter of the battle between Taliban militants and the Pakistani army to win control of the picturesque valley and, potentially, Pakistan's future. This brutalization started—swept by force, house by house—with the city now fractured into areas controlled by the Taliban and areas controlled by the military. Caught in between are civilians, as many as 20,000 left in Murdan, with no choice to escape and basic supplies like food and water running out.

The situation has reached a critical point. Not even as the hundreds of thousands left trapped in Swat, but the army and the Taliban for an opportunity to escape, the estimated 2.4 million who have managed to reach have the Shik Yasin are struggling in their own way to survive. This is where the real tragedy of Pakistan is playing out: a constant of men, women and children driven from their homes, the largest number of humanitarian Pakistan has seen since the subcontinent of partition in 1947 when over seven million Muslims living in the newly independent India migrated to live there first, others to better themselves in the promised land in what Pakistan. These they were promised peace, security, and a chance for a better future.

Over 60 years later, that has not happened. Pakistan is again at war, with masses of people scrambling for safety and wandering what overlapped to the kitchen of their foreign fathers.

But there is little refuge in Shik Yasin, and other camps like a scattered around Pakistan's north. The politics and power struggles playing out in Swat are also playing out here, under a blazing sun that pushes the mercury past 40°C, and in an atmosphere of fear, mistrust and misery. Facilities are inadequate: tents, tarpaulins, temporary shelters with no electricity, water containers are left in the open so that old water is a luxury, and medical facilities are either non-existent or severely underfunded. Dr. Asma Karim, one of the few female doctors around, admits to a feeling of disgust when the sun bakes the camp in being hot. She is part of a mobile health unit from Lahore, intended to serve the outlying villages where some of the displaced have gone to seek shelter with relatives or sympathetic villagers. "It's horrible," she says. "Why are there so many people coming to us for help? Why are there no doctors in the camps?" Her hospital, a converted bus, has been sitting in Shik Yasin for days, overwhelmed by the conditions there while village kids in need are forced to wait.

For her, corruption is the main culprit behind the poor response to the crisis, one was in 2009 following a devastating earthquake in Kashmir. Even as Pakistan's officials demand hand-drawn checks of millions of dollars in emergency funds from the international community to cope with the warping demand for aid, the underlying corruption that has already supplanted it, in practice, most of an aid industry that a ministry continues to operate without any new injection of cash will likely end as feeding the beast. And in Pakistan, where any



how to guide to making it big would probably include a chapter on the potential riches to be found in opening an aid agency, it is a harsh, grey, bleak world.

According to Jihangir Zora, the founder of the Tora Tiger volunteer and group, corruption has infected every level of the government and military. "I'll tell you something I saw here with my own eyes," he says. "There was a consignment of aid that arrived from a community donation. These people, villagers, gave what little they have to help their ill-fate citizens. When the aid arrived at the camp, a politician took it, one and a half his party's bags, and distributed it in the name of the party."

A volunteer with Dr. Karim's mobile hospital interacts with another woman. "We were bringing these truckloads of supplies donated by people in Punjab to one of the camps. Just as we were arriving at the camp, we were stopped at a military checkpoint. They threatened us to bring close to the camp where they transferred the supplies to their own trucks, told us to leave, and went to the camp to distribute it in the name of the army."

But clearing this crisis is only the tip of the iceberg. Unless you politicians and mili-



IN THE CAMPS, facilities are poor. "They know how many they would affect," says Mirpuri says. "Why didn't they prepare?"

tary leaders went to control the flow of aid, so money comes through there—and it is more easily siphoned off. "Look at these so-called agencies," Zora says, pointing to the booths lining the road that run down the course of the Shik Yasin camp. "They advertise medical supplies, but all they have is a counter piled with medicines and a village woman sitting behind it. At best, they might have a pharmacist. Our pharmacists are not trained to diagnose illness." It's true—Pakistan's pharmacists have little or no medical training, and the best in the world like Mirpuri spends at a rock concert their legions

'I NEVER WANT TO WORK IN THE AID SECTOR AGAIN. IT'S ALL A MONEY-MAKING GAME.'



as medical facilities. Zora says the majority of these organizations, including the army and political parties, are playing out a long-established drama: give the appearance of doing something, take some pictures for the donor agencies like the UN, wait for the next donation—and pocket your percentage. A source at the World Health Organization who has been working at Pakistan's a huge camp for the past year confirms Zora's allegations. "I've reached the point now where I

never want to work in the aid sector again," says the source. "The aid agencies that go on (frankly and honestly) ordering medicines that are never delivered, or ordering newly expired medicines at a fraction of the cost, changing the procurement focus to indicate new medicines were ordered and keeping the money I've seen the forms. It's all a money-making game. We're increasing expired medicines all the time." This, according to the source, who has brought the issue up with superiors but was told to step out of it, is one of the major reasons why there is such a shortfall of medicines at the camps.

The end result is mounting anger and frustration among those who came to the camps seeking help. From the displaced people's perspective, the government should have been prepared. "The government knew they were going to do this operation," says a man who identifies himself as Ashraf. He arrived at Shik Yasin from Murdan on May 12 with his family. "They knew how many people it would affect," Ashraf says. "Why didn't they prepare for it?"

Beyond the anger and despair, however, is a war being fought between militants and the authorities. And despite his frustration with government officials, Ashraf says he doesn't support the Taliban. In fact, the results from an informal survey carried out by this reporter at these camps (see in the middle) show a split between their urban militants and rural villagers: the city dwellers generally support the government, while the villagers back the Taliban.

That makes for a tense divide in the camps, where villagers and people from cities like Murdan have been separated there in a seeming cauldron of conflicting loyalties. It's also created an ideal recruiting ground for militants who, officials say, have infiltrated the camps. "They are there," says one official from the Special Branch, the spy agency responsible for security inside the camps. "We see houses where they are because they can mix in with the local population, but we've had one incident where a woman poisoned out to be three militants who knew from Murdan. They were arrested."

The Special Branch, an official aid, relies on local people to finger Taliban militants. Most, however, are too frightened to do so. "We can't risk against the Taliban," says one displaced person, who from Murdan, living in the Police 1 camp in Charsadda, 150 km west of Islamabad. He reports that his name not used. "We've seen what happens to a person who gets a bad word about them: his entire group goes to Taliban supporters, however, are not so shy. Groups of them can be seen gathered at the various camps, waiting for an opportunity to speak their minds.



"This is God's punishment," says one sister, aged 30, at Shaki Yasin. "We have been weak Muslims—we have not followed the law of God or the Prophet (Muhammad). If we had followed those laws, no one would have the strength to do this to us." The men gathered around him nod in agreement. They are all from Muzia, a village 15 km north of Mingora and a known Taliban stronghold where Pakistan's military is currently engaged in a bloody battle against deeply entrenched militants. All of them blame the Pakistani government for the crisis, and the teenager voices them on with examples of how Pakistan society has fallen into sin, how its government has sided with the infidels, and how the Taliban are the only answer to their woes. The same argument has been made before, by militant preachers in Pakistan's radical mosques and madrasas, where much of the Taliban's recruiting work is carried out. Now, it seems, they have a new seizure for motives.

THE CAMPS ARE TENSE. SOME PEOPLE SUPPORT THE TALIBAN, OTHERS THE GOVERNMENT.



SRON women (left) with Talari (top), a mother and her child at a military medical camp

that one factor is playing in the favour of more moderate Pakistan society: the vast majority of religious are avoiding the camps altogether, or leaving them once they get a taste of the conditions there. Instead, so many as two million, or 80 per cent, have found shelter among family members or in facilities provided by village communities in predominantly Pashtun areas of northern Pakistan, so-called Taliban influence—or out of the grasp of the militant recruitment and money from the misery inside the camps.

If there is any silver lining to be found in the current crisis, it is in the respect of these local Taliban communities. "While the camps are in the camps, they are still through the lens, the refugees in villages like Tori, where Jhangori's volunteers have organized a grassroots relief operation, find cool comfort in homes and schools, with their communities providing for them," says Waheed Iqbal, a displaced person from Lower Dir, 150 km

refugees, a male in his mid-30s who prefers not to give his name, "but the facilities were terrible. The tents were in the open air, under the sun, and our children were getting sick. But finding this place has been a blessing. The local people have welcomed us."

For Jhangori Tori, growing from a people who is much in pleasure in its history. Everything, he says, has been organized and funded by donors, and supported by the Pakistani code of honour and hospitality. "We have not asked the government for anything," he adds, pointing out that the government is difficult to deal with officials. "We don't want money from them. All we want is food. These villages are poor, but they are still generous for the displaced people. The problem is they will not be able to do this indefinitely."

As for medical facilities, the Tori Tigers have partnered with a grassroots medical team, the Azam Health Organization from Karachi, 80 km south of Islamabad, which has set up a hospital at a Tori administration building. In terms of its supplies and staffing, it far surpasses anything in the camps, even though the donors are all volunteers who bought the medicines themselves and cobbled together the equipment from their own resources. Shadi Mena, the chief coordinator for the hospital, believes this is the way and should be done in Pakistan. "The official system is broken," he says. "It can't be trusted. But what you have here in the villages is a culture that has an affinity for looking after their own. This culture should be mobilized."

For now, the mobilization is self-generated. But in Jhangori Tori points out, it could become an act of war in itself. "The government has to realize that the opportunity to help these people is right here, at the gates," he says. "But it looks no one like those officials are more interested in lining their own pockets or expressing their political passions than they are in helping the people." And if refugees are forced to leave the villages, they will have no choice but to join the hundreds of thousands crowded into the camps. That will only add to the misery of the displaced, and strengthen the Taliban's claims there. What's needed most is a place of refuge, one that apparently already exists in the Pashtun culture, if only the government and aid industry would look past their own culture of corruption. ■

BANGLADESH: COPS IN DRAO NAB HUGGERS

In an admittedly unusual move, police in the capital city of Dhaka are warning doctors and urged to nab would-be picketers and bag-washers to get them home. "We have heard that some doctors were hit by bullets, the doctors are having a lot of trouble. In the past four days we have arrested some 40 would-be huggers who have been targeting our officers thinking they are women civilians," deputy police commissioner Imtiaz Hossain said.



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Help—we're running out of criminals

BY USMAN MOHAMMAD • Some problems are good ones to have. After facing a short age of prison cells in the '60s, Holland is now running out of criminals. Last week, the Justice Ministry announced a plan to close eight prisons because a declining crime rate has left nearly 2,000 cells empty. The ministry currently has a capacity of more than 14,000 adult prisoners, but only has 12,000 inmates. Meanwhile, Deputy Justice Minister Nebahat Albayrak has said the Dutch parliament that the ministry estimates the decline in crime



The jail closings will see 1,200 jobs slashed in the prison system.

rates will continue for some time. (According to the International Centre for Prison Studies in London, the Netherlands housed a total of over 10,000 inmates, including juveniles and illegal aliens, in 2008. In 2007 the number fell to close to 18,000.)

Not everyone is pleased, since the closures will displace 1,200 jobs slated for the right-wing Dutch Freedom Party and left-wing Socialist Party oppose the job cuts and dispute the idea of a prison overcapacity—and say they would like to see more criminals sent to jail. But Albayrak maintains the plan will proceed, although she has said the unions representing workers in the prison system will be consulted (according to some reports the government could save over \$158 million by shutting down the prisons).

So many jobs for the prison workers could come through a deal worth about \$47 million to temporarily place 100 criminals from neighboring Belgium behind Dutch bars (Belgium is currently facing a shortage of over 1,500 cells, a result of a law-level arrest crime such as pickpocketing is on the rise).

Albayrak has confirmed that both countries are working to possibly transfer the prisoners to the Tilburg prison by 2016, and has also reportedly expressed her interest in reusing Dutch prisons to help Cyprus deal with its illegal immigration problems and political asylum seekers. ■

Blowing the whistle on Kazakhstan

BY PATRICIA TRIBLE • Bakht Aliev has saved the plot of documents he took with him when he went into exile, after a very public falling out with Kazakhstan's strongman in 2007, into an exposé called *The Godfather in Law*. Among the revelations are how President Nursultan Nazarbayev and his cronies have secreted billions outside the resource-rich nation, which grows from the Caspian Sea to the Chinese border. And what Aliev says is the Chinese border. And what Aliev says is the Chinese border. And what Aliev says is the Chinese border.

"For each word, for each figure, I have a piece of paper," Aliev says, and the German magazine *Der Spiegel*. Among the files is Aliev's testimony in the purported job application to the Soviet KGB by the current prime minister, Kasim-Jomart Tokayev, details of its elaborate network of companies designed to funnel money out of the Central Asian country, copies of cheques made out for millions and a list of agents in Kazakh embassies.

The book, published in Germany, was quickly banned by the government in Nurem.

"Our citizens, if they are found to be involved in purchasing and distributing this book, will face criminal prosecution for assisting the criminal," Bakht Aliev," stated Saparbek Nurpeisov at the prosecutor general's office. As for Aliev, he lives in hiding in Austria. Within days of his self-exile, Kazakhstan announced he subjected overcapacity and issues that go as well as Dargah's quick descent from her disgraced husband. Aliev's son, scattered in various parts of the country, has been a subject of interest to the government.

For Nazarbayev, who's ruled the oil-rich nation since the Soviet Union's breakup and who has been accused of widespread abuse, the attention that Aliev's book brings to his country couldn't come at a worse time. His administration is getting ready to take over the chairmanship of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, which deals with human rights issues and democratization. ■

It's a party. Break out the tear gas.



While the capital celebrated, riots broke out in southern Yemen.

BY RAYE LEUNG • It's been 19 years since North and South Yemen were united into one country, which remains among the poorest in the Arab world. Its regional division remains. Last week, as the government marked the date—passing 10,000 men through the capital of Sana'a, in the north, in a show of military might—violent demonstrations erupted in the southern port city of Aden. Escalating tensions have some observers warning that war could be on the horizon.

As the commemoration ceremony, staged behind a wall of bulletproof glass, President Ali Abdullah Saleh oversaw the procession featuring cheer troops, Russian-made tanks and fighter planes. But in Aden, roughly 1,000 gathered in an unmarked rally to protest against the government in Sana'a. Police fired live bullets and tear gas into the crowd, killing at least three protesters and wounding 12 more, according to media reports. Another 120 people were arrested.

Regional tensions are long-standing, although most of the country's oil facilities are based in the north, the population in the (around four million) is some oil, and divided by the north's tribalism people. An attempt at southern secession in 1994 was scrapped out. In the independence movement in joining mainstream in April, for example, Tariq al-Falhi, an ally of Saleh, abandoned the president and joined the secessionists. "It was a very early lesson learned by the secessionists, which has been a Yemeni hard. Following the violence, Saleh appeared on national television, calling on "all political groups and non-governmental organizations on the national Yemeni state [in fact] the national dialogue, as in the ideal means to solve issues that are important to the nation." Despite those words—and UN facilitator's work victory—the chaos that divided north Yemen from south, it seems, will run deep. ■



President Nazarbayev is not pleased with the exposé.

son "from being done."

Lila Rubin, Terasian uses another oil-related term in the conversation: "trickle down." But he argues that trickle down is the most important concept that leads some of these new technologies to be even more widely adopted. Terasian points out the speed with which technologies like the Apple iPhone have been snapped up—one million were sold in the first three months it was on the market. Today's energy-saving technologies are a lot like color TVs in the 1990s, he says. They exist, but people don't have a compelling reason to rush out and buy them—at least not yet.

WHEAT OIL PRICES soared last summer if you had to be optimistic about our ability to out our addiction to cheap fuel. Almost overnight, upping gas from parking in became the crime du jour. People were suddenly spending more on gas than groceries. It was during this time that Rubin was constructing his thesis and the warning that this was just a taste of what lies ahead.

High oil prices don't just hit you in the pocketbook, he explains. They threaten to unravel an entire economic system that relies on shipping goods around the world. Those cheap electronics you buy at Wal-Mart are only cheap because they're made in China and loaded across the ocean in massive container ships. When the cost of shipping those goods more than doubles, as it did last year, then this system starts to look very vulnerable. At the very least, high oil prices will turn the clock back 40 years to a time when nations by "a fully equipped within huge tariff walls," says Rubin.

It's a worrying scenario, if for no other reason than the fact that globalization has spread economic benefits around the world. Earning 40 percent of that kind of pragmatic world's income, says Rubin's definition, globalization is little more than a "lucky word" for moving from factory to the shop or flower market to the city. But that's just one element of a much more diverse system, says Karl Moore, the co-author of *The Dragon of Globalization*. "It's a lot more complex," he says. "It's also how interlinked we are in society." More than cheap consumer goods, globalization has underwritten unprecedented improvements in the standard of living the world over, fueled massive amounts of immigration, driven political change, as well as advances in technology and the spread of ideas. Does such a



Tertzakian says energy 'inefficiency' is our greatest failing, but is also our greatest opportunity for change



can global systems really sustain, like an upside-down pyramid, an oil price?

Moore says globalization simply isn't that fragile. It will not get thrown into reverse, but it will continue to evolve, as it always has. "Twenty years ago we didn't talk about [oil sourcing in] China or India very much at all. If you had said those are two big trends, we would have scratched our heads and said, 'I don't see it.' Short of truly excessive oil prices [in the range of \$100 a barrel], globalization will continue to go in new and surprising directions," he says.

Alarmists tend to portray affordable oil as the precondition for global trade, what it is really just one variable among many. Jagdish Bhagwati is a professor of economics at Cal Berkeley University and the author of *The Dragon of Globalization*. He says there is a basic flaw in this end of globalisation argument. It assumes that many oil prices will affect only

transportation costs. But that's not the case, he says. Oil prices also affect the production costs of traded goods. If those production costs go up, more in the importing countries than exporting ones, that makes trading even more profitable, which often offsets the added transportation costs, explains Bhagwati.

Fear of China's rising energy demand pushing up oil prices—and swelling global inflation—also tend to be overstated, argues Lovins, the head of the Rocky Mountain Institute. Much has been said about U.S. President Barack Obama's ambitious new energy scheme, but already China is on pace to become the world leader in fuel cell technology and electric motors and has far surpassed the U.S. when it comes to developing and building diesel rail plants. "China's leader ship is deathly afraid of falling into the oil trap that we did," said Lovins, speaking at a recent conference on energy security.

As fuel costs eventually begin to rise again, some trade will inevitably dry up. Indeed, as Rubin surmises, that's already happened with steel shipments from China to North America and the trade of bulky furniture. But for all the panic of last year's oil spike, the chain got it prompted haven't been overly dramatic. It's true that there's a lot of low hanging fruit that can be picked off by cutting oil prices before money starts to evaporate. Rubin highlights a few, from lamb shipped from New Zealand to salmon that's caught off the coast of Norway, shipped to China for processing, then finally to North America for consumption.

Rubin argues that if you add up enough of these seemingly minor changes, the world will eventually be unrecognizable. But this isn't necessarily a bad thing, he says. "I don't think this book is apocalyptic in any sense," he says. There are upside to the story: more fascinating jobs will come home, far-flung nations will be reformed by farms for local food production, he argues. And while Rubin disagrees that the world will be able to outstep future oil depletion through new energy policies and new technologies, he doesn't completely buy the dark prognoses of the peak of oil. "We may be energy poor, but we are innovation rich and necessity is the mother of invention," he writes in the book's conclusion. "I wouldn't write a future economies just yet." Luckily for the doomsday set, if people start shopping our energy system less, it

FAMOUS GYPSY GETS UNWANTED WATERING

Die Feltner is usually the center of attention because of what spews out of it. However, last month, two seasonal employees at America's Yellowstone National Park were fired after they were caught on webcam urinating into the famous geyser. Authorities do not appear to be taking the stunt lightly, instead of the case, the worker was also sentenced to three years' probation. fined US\$750 and banned from Yellowstone for two years.

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ECONOWATCH

A WEEKLY SCORECARD ON THE STATE OF THE ECONOMY IN NORTH AMERICA AND BEYOND



STEVE MACHIN

When will things go back to normal? That is the only question that seems to matter when it comes to the economy and the financial markets. What most really scares us is when will my house price begin soaring again? How long before my stocks triple? And when will I feel safe to cash out my credit cards again? Over the past 15 years that have become "normal" at last, I am not. But that isn't costing back now.

The reality is, everything we are happening around us is part of the process of returning to normal. For the past decade or so the loss of financial prudence has been rewarded. Now they are back in fact, and those who scored the highest have the furthest to fall.

It gets a little different to listen to people extolling the virtues of "the new fragility." It seems a contradiction to this point to mention that there is no law that says every middle class family is entitled to an annual overseas vacation. Not all young people could be expected to remember the TV in a typical household, and teenagers actually had to ask to borrow the keys to the car (juggler).

If that's your definition of fragility, then fine. But there's nothing "new" about it. We are simply reversing the last act of financing.

For the past decade or so, Canadians (and, of course, Americans) stood heavily on a real estate house leg. We didn't need to. With house values appreciating by 80 per cent a year, and stocks rising everywhere they then, there was no reason to save. With interest rates below five per cent, debt was a better option than savings. But as TD Bank economist Diana Petrusakova noted in a report this week, Canadians saved over 15 per cent of their take home pay (but) in the late '70s and early '80s. They started saving and starting to invest, so they pay cash away for "sunny days." We aren't likely to return to the record 30 per cent average of 1981, but our savings rate is now at a 10-year high of 6.7 per cent and it's likely to climb as high as seven per cent for the next few years, she says.

Unemployment is going to be higher than we've been used to, and GDP growth will be modest. We're going to take on less debt, we're going to save more of our income, and yet, that means real wages are going to suffer from the idea of a decent lifestyle. But here's Petrusakova's kicker: "This will be a healthy trend for both households and the financial system." This would not ending. Call it fragility if you like. We used to call it sanity. ■

THE GOOD NEWS

Shop therapy

Canadian consumer confidence edged higher in March for a third consecutive month—gaining 0.1 per cent. The government was downer, so, presumably, by rising rates of automobiles and rising food prices. All this welcome news, but sales are still about five per cent below what they were last year at this time, says America's retail sector suffered a setback in April, so much will be riding on next month's retail report from Statistics Canada.

Indicators in check

Consumer prices rose a modest 0.4 per cent last month. Falling oil prices helped keep the bid on inflation, easing the threat of Canada has plenty of leeway to lower interest rates parked at rock bottom for the rest of the year.

Leading where?

The Conference Board's index of leading economic indicators showed another year-long decline in April. It wasn't a surprise by any means, but it marked the first sign of actual improvement in the economy since last June.

The Conference Board's confidence index edged up 0.1 per cent in March, double what it was in March of actual improvement in the economy since last June.



Clear eyes, full hearts

U.S. consumers are feeling much better about the way they feel. The Conference Board's confidence index edged up 0.1 per cent in March, double what it was in March of actual improvement in the economy since last June.

THE BAD NEWS

The end of cheap oil

Don't get used to the relatively modest price for gas and heating oil—the International Energy Agency notes that we're headed for a sharp spike in prices, right about the time the economy is getting back on its feet. Falling oil prices have dashed energy investment (in drilling, development and exploration) by 18.176 billion—cutting expected production by 10.6 million barrels per day in 2012, and so, in a couple of years, when global demand is increasing, you can expect a supply shortage, sending prices sharply higher.

month, meaning the construction industry is now operating at its lowest level since January 1959. Analysts had been expecting a decent gain, but we're sorry to disappoint. Eventually, this lack of building will help drive up prices, but for now, it just means a lot of people are out of work.

Still jobless

Wholly clueless for public benefits in the U.S. fell to 631,000 last week. The number of mass layoffs (between 500 to a million people at once) also dropped to 2,711—afflicting 371,326 people. Real jobless claims fell to 2.7 million. That's good news isn't it? No. Those numbers are still mindboggling high. The flood water may have receded, but a lot of people are still drowning.



GRAPH OF THE WEEK

A WORLD IN WORK: Global currency markets show a significant shift in the U.S. dollar's value. The U.S. dollar's value has fallen over the past five years. But as the price drops, so do the U.S. dollar's value. The U.S. dollar's value has fallen over the past five years. But as the price drops, so do the U.S. dollar's value. The U.S. dollar's value has fallen over the past five years. But as the price drops, so do the U.S. dollar's value.



SIGNS OF THE TIMES



► It seems these days every year isn't quite the draw that some had hoped. International tourism is not bating up to ride the ride through half-empty subways to view America's economic carnage up close. The U.S. Commerce Department is projecting an eight per cent drop in travel to the U.S. this year. Truth is, nobody has much spare cash, so America is ditching lines by as much as 35 per cent for the summer in hopes of encouraging domestic travel. ► When the going gets tough, the tough call their lawyers. This week Steve Lee, maker of the Big Fish Franks, sued Kraft, maker of Oscar Mayer hot dogs, over the latter's claim that it makes the latter's hot dogs taste like, and besides Oscar Mayer because it's "too per cent pure beef," so claimed. Chances are, this case is going to result in one much information about the beefable side work. ► According to the New York Post, Playtex is for sale, but as one has yet stepped up to acquire the recent bid failing because the price was too high. It's believed it would require a lot of \$100 million to convince founder Bruce Hoffman to give up control, but the company's stock is valued at roughly a third of that. ► Entrepreneur magazine is facing a US\$195 million class action lawsuit from 47 readers over a health food endorsement. The magazine included Agave World on its "Hot 100" list of up-and-coming companies. A little while later, it was revealed that Agave was a Ponzi scheme and lawsuits later their money.

LATEST INTELLIGENCE

The price of gold hit a two-month high this week, climbing above US\$1054 per ounce. Gold has been on a slow slide through the market, down from its peak of \$1200 in late 2008. But as the price drops, so do the U.S. dollar's value. The U.S. dollar's value has fallen over the past five years. But as the price drops, so do the U.S. dollar's value. The U.S. dollar's value has fallen over the past five years. But as the price drops, so do the U.S. dollar's value.

"Once the Fed lowers the price, it's going to be a disaster. Investors can profit by shorting the dollar and U.S. Treasuries. Going forward gold will be the major beneficiary." —Ken Shusterman, founder of Hedge Fund Firm Strategic Fund Income LLC.



"The level of fear is going to go up as companies start to earlier for and we're going to see the price of gold go up significantly. It'll be a hard cash that'll drop past the level we experienced last fall and it'll really shake people up." —Don Douglas, founder and past owner, Douglas Financial Advisors.

"The fact equity markets appear to have stalled and inflation fears are on the increase should give gold increased upward momentum."

—James Moore, an analyst at The Bullion Desk.com in London

"To me, the most surprising aspect of the current crisis is that gold prices didn't rally to extreme levels. I've had told me before about the type of crisis that was about to unfold. I'd have thought gold would have hit \$1,000 an ounce." —Joel Costantini, vice president of Global Commodities Research at Deutsche Bank.

"There has been a seismic shift away from capital appreciation toward wealth preservation and we believe this trend will drive anomalous behavior in the next decade." —Arman Shusterman, chief executive of the World Gold Council.



THE ECONOGAUGE

Our weekly edit of the prevailing mood among investors and consumers



THE WEEK AHEAD

THURSDAY, MAY 26 The major Canadian stocks will begin reporting quarterly earnings, with CIBC, Scotiabank and TD up next. Investors are watching out on whether dividends will be increased.
FRIDAY, MAY 29 The U.S. will report gross domestic product for the first quarter, with a decline of 5.6 per cent expected. Canada will report Q2 for the first time, with a decline of 0.1 per cent expected.
MONDAY, JUNE 1 U.S. auction will report on the number of oil and energy barrels produced in the first quarter.

OVERDRAWN by Jason Logan



HOW SMART IS YOUR CITY?

Do you live in one of Canada's greatest towns, the kind of place that helps residents attain a better life—culturally, financially, socially? Or does your city lag behind? See how Canada's major cities stack up, from best to worst, and whether they're rising or declining in the past two years. The biggest didn't necessarily do best (Saskatoon beats Toronto) and it wasn't only boom towns that did well (Calgary is No. 1, but Guelph, Ont., is up there, too). Cities with the most opportunities for lifelong learning topped that list from the Canadian Council on Learning—and when their residents offer neighborhood, better-the-odd, and even higher wages. How did your city fare? (4+ indicates the 2007-08 trend)

CITY	OVERALL SCORE	LEARNING TO KNOW	LEARNING TO DO	LEARNING TO LIVE	LEARNING TO BE
Calgary	882	8.7	71	8.7	73
Victoria	889	8.0	70	8.8	71
Saskatoon	888	4.0	84	8.1	71
Guelph, Ont.	888	8.2	8.6	7.2	8.1
Windsor, Ont.	864	5.3	73	8.8	8.0
Ottawa	864	8.0	89	5.6	8.2
Regina	864	3.7	82	8.8	8.7
Kitchener, Ont.	863	5.5	8.8	8.8	8.1
Edmonton	862	5.8	70	5.6	5.8
Windsor, B.C.	862	5.4	8.8	8.7	8.7
Calgary, Ont.	811	5.2	6.7	6.0	5.5
Winnipeg	809	4.1	8.8	8.8	5.8
Brampton, Ont.	804	6.1	8.5	5.7	8.4
Halifax	802	3.8	6.2	4.5	6.2
Mississauga, Ont.	804	6.1	8.8	8.8	8.4
Toronto	804	6.1	8.8	6.0	5.8
Winnipeg, Ont.	78	4.8	8.8	8.8	5.1
Kingston, Ont.	479	5.4	8.2	8.8	8.3
London, Ont.	478	5.3	7.1	5.5	4.8
Fredericton	478	3.8	8.8	8.8	5.8
Hamilton	477	5.3	8.5	5.6	4.7
St. Catharines, Ont.	477	5.2	8.8	5.2	4.8
Thunder Bay, Ont.	477	5.2	8.8	4.7	4.8
Windsor, Ont.	477	5.2	8.8	4.7	4.8
Quebec City	478	4.6	6.3	4.2	5.1
Abbotsford, B.C.	474	5.4	8.7	4.7	4.8
St. John's	467	4.5	8.2	4.0	5.0
Winnipeg, Ont.	474	5.5	8.1	6.0	4.3
Charlottetown	473	3.7	8.8	4.4	4.8
Saltburn, Ont.	728	5.0	5.2	4.9	4.8
Moncton, N.B.	472	3.2	5.6	4.8	4.3
Langford, Ont.	694	4.8	8.8	3.8	4.1
Laval, Que.	468	4.8	5.5	3.8	4.1
Montréal	468	4.8	5.5	3.8	4.1
St. John's, N.B.	879	3.3	8.8	4.0	3.0
Shelburne, Ont.	654	4.3	4.4	4.4	3.8
Truro-Norfolk, Ont.	461	4.2	3.0	3.4	3.6
St. John's, Ont.	460	4.1	3.0	3.4	3.5

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CAN'T FIND YOUR HOMETOWN? Go to masterplan.ca/municipalities for a complete ranking of more than 4,750 cities and municipalities across Canada.

Across the country, more than half of all communities (large, small and rural) have seen their median fall. And one single place scored 90 or higher, compared with 51 in 2006.

All of that is good, say observers, because at the end of the day, learning opportunities are what city residents thrive on. Lifelong learning isn't about creating a warm and fuzzy city about, they argue, or establishing an air of sophistication. The fact that individuals are self-motivated and use libraries actually improves a community's safety and quality of life. The CCL has evidence that cities with low scores experience an upsurge in problems, including higher crime rates, poorer population health, lower voter participation, and more unemployment. This is why the index is so exciting, and Canada is being hailed as a pioneer for developing it. The European Union and German group Benchmark Stiftung are using the CCL as a model to measure lifelong learning in their own



CULTURE MATTERS Calgary may have lower income but people actually go to town

CANADA'S SMARTEST CITIES

Will yours help you thrive in tough times, or leave you to fall behind? Now, more than ever, it matters. BY CATHY GULLI

How dumb do you think Canadians are? The answer may come as an unpleasant surprise. A new report by the Canadian Council on Learning shows that, for the first time since the organization started measuring what it calls "lifelong learning" in communities across the country—which reflects everything from literacy completion and museum attendance to participation in sports and volunteer

ism—the national average score has actually dropped. What are the art galleries? Forget it. Pick up an actual newspaper? No, thanks. Can you climb, it appears, are getting dumb and dumber. And given that a city's performance on this lifelong learning index seems to go hand in hand with economic success, some are wondering what this tumble may foreshadow. "Learning plays such an important

role in the social and economic resilience of the country that I think it really needs to pay attention to this," says Paul Crippen, president and chief executive of the Ottawa-based non-profit corporation.

Until now, Canada's score had been on the upswing, from 76 in 2007 to 77 last year. Today that number has dropped to 71, proportionally close to the lowest level recorded,

which was 71, in 2006. The figures are based on the annual Composite Learning Index, which gives every Canadian community (more than 4,718 in all) a score according to how it rates across four categories or "pillars" that were originally developed by UNESCO: learning to know (which encompasses access to schools and literacy levels), learning to live together (religious activity and the level of interaction between people from diverse cultures), learning to work (education and vocational training), and learning to be (engagement with the arts, sports, media). And taken together, the categories correspond with economic indicators like unemployment rates and incomes.

This year, the place that came out on top as the healthiest city of Calgary, up from third last year, is closely followed by Victoria and Saskatoon. But even Calgary, with a score of 88, has gotten dumber since a year ago, when it achieved an impressive 92. In fact, most of the smartest major cities have seen their scores dip since 2008: Ottawa, Victoria, Regina, Edmonton, Halifax, Guelph and Kitchener. And Moncton, many of last year's lowest scorers have only gotten worse, especially in places such as Moncton and Trois-Rivières.

PHOTOGRAPH BY JEFF HARRINGTON



communities. The first results will be released this summer, and Cappon hopes that next year Canada will be able to compare its per performance with that of those nations.

Cappon and others believe that lifelong learning—especially the kind gained through the arts and culture—is more important now than ever. These experiences, they say, make individuals not only so that when economic disaster strikes in a local industry goes layoff or a community simply collapses, the whole place doesn't simply collapse. The big question now is, *is this a city that has a healthy learning scene, because back before from crisis? Could going to local theatre and playing can community recover actually improve your financial well-being and your city's long-term how much less risk chance disaster with low scores here at threat?*

I'm not surprised to hear that Calgary's Canada's smartest city, *is maybe*. Don't know, but I think it's a good sign. Smartness is important. "Calgary goes to school with that. It's a great school of all, just running around with a lot of money." And then there are the Stampede jokes. Last year, when Cal-

Canada's cities got dumber on the whole—which may be troubling for our future

gary turned out to be the most cultured city in the country—measured by the proportion of households that spent money on experiencing the arts and great musical—radio talks, shows were slight with calls from across the nation. But when it came to the city's capital, it was the nation's best. The city had been ranked by the nation's best capital. One busy caller, in Vancouver, the idea that Calgary was an enlightened lot, actually referred to them as "cow bells." "That places such as Montreal, which has long relied on international status in a nation of free arts, scored much lower than Calgary only added to the confusion, which sometimes bordered on indignation."

In some ways that's a temptation to throw off Calgary's success with being about money. It can afford to invest in its museum and per-

formance, and boasts well-off residents who can enjoy them. But spending money doesn't mean they are the biggest and best place, but rather, they are growing. Gough and Bernier, that, for instance, or Killeen, B.C., far outside of large urban centers has Toronto and Vancouver. But it's actually Canada's fastest-growing city, as revealed by the 2006 census, followed immediately by Calgary. Meanwhile, many of the places with the lowest scores, which tend to be in Quebec, have dwindling populations. For the second year in a row, Saguenay, Que., has recorded the lowest major cities. Like the rest of the province, the city has a low birth rate, and many young people leave Saguenay for work or better life elsewhere. Last year, La Presse newspaper dubbed it "the unemployment capital of Quebec."

It's true that the connection between a city's wealth and its lifelong learning is a circular one with some important low paid-up social cultural readers who earn more money, which they spend locally, thereby helping the city and its businesses prosper.

and fuelling money back into the city money. Brossard doesn't discount the importance of a strong economy in creating a successful community. "To be, however, opportunities are the first and most important step." "The higher the level of education, the more passion for the economy, the stronger the opportunity," he explains.

Of course, the correlations are not always so straightforward. Ottawa, for instance, has world-class institutions, but they couldn't draw big crowds of local residents in 2007 compared with one year earlier, and that was the main reason the city's score dropped from 91 to 84, and why it dropped from first place last year to sixth among major cities. Acting Mayor Michael Brossard says that Ottawa's appeal and has improved recently. "But I don't think it's an automatic answer" to be a success in the community where we live, he says, partly because "we associate our own love with work and home life."

Calgary, on the other hand, may not have the plethora of arts and culture found in some big cities, but the growing community (1.1 million people and counting) has a major appetite for cultural events. Last year, Centre, president of the Alberta College of Art and Design, which is in Calgary. A few years ago, Centre started the "Young Culture" program series, which featured theatre shows such as designer Bruce Mau, architect Will Alcock, cultural planner Charles Landry, and opera director Peter Sellars. The talks, which were free to the public, saw more than 5,000 people each made the downtown performing arts centre.

What's more, the latest C.I.J. survey confirms that Calgary is the biggest museum goer in Canada, with all 1 per cent of households having visited at least one local exhibit in 2007. Montreal placed sixth among major cities with only 24.7 per cent of households having gone to a museum that year. Meanwhile, in Toronto—where the Art Gallery of Ontario recently laid off 13 staff—only 1 per cent of households visit museums compared to 28.9 in Vancouver.

So why don't people go? Art galleries and museums can't seem to make it happen, says Carlsson, which may explain why people from visiting. Others may not go because they are used to cultural life as a luxury or thrill, says Bob Williams, a director of Variety in Vancouver, and a former politician who has been involved in studies on the role of arts in the community. "It's the suburbanization," he says, the kind of indulgence that might be further Regime in private residences and perhaps even when people go too busy with work.

But the consequences of the kind of drop-off are not. In fact, the reason for the big decline in Canada's C.I.J. scores overall is mainly due to decreases in the "learning to



CANADA'S MOST CULTURED CITIES

When it comes to culture, west is best, it seems. Calgary, the city that earned an upgrade to the rest of Canada which topped our list of Most Cultured Cities last year, comes out on top again. But the top five cities on the Canadian Council on Learning's "learning to be" pillar, four—Calgary, Victoria, Saskatoon and Regina—are in Western Canada. A closer look at this list of some of the largest cities and urban areas shows that Victoria had the most readers. Calgary had the highest percentage of readers who, in 2007, households in Saskatoon than anywhere else had paid performing arts shows. And what of cities like Montreal and Toronto? Check near the bottom of the list.

CITY	LEARNING TO BE SCORE	PER CENT WHO SPEND ON THE ARTS	PER CENT WHO SPEND ON THE ARTS	PER CENT WHO SPEND ON THE ARTS
Calgary	38	88.8%	40.6%	48.3%
Victoria	37	88.8%	42.3%	38.6
Saskatoon	37	84.4	32.6	49.7
Regina	37	84.4	32.6	59.6
Winnipeg	36	79.9	41.0	40.3
Winnipeg	36	76.0	44.8	38.6
Edmonton	36	75.2	39.9	29.7
Fredericton	36	65.6	41.1	50.8
Toronto	34	70.4	38.7	33.1
Vancouver	33	70.9	38.4	28.9
Greater City	31	78.5	45.5	50.7
St. John's	30	74.8	45.5	24.8
London, Ont.	29	71.9	40.5	38.7
Charlottetown	28	70.0	40.6	24.8
Moncton, N.B.	28	75.8	38.8	25.0
Halifax	27	72.6	37.8	24.7
St. John's, N.B.	26	68.3	31.8	19.9

Note: C.I.J. survey of Canada's cities based on the 2007 C.I.J. survey of household spending on the arts. Data for the cities of Montreal and Toronto are not available. Source: Canadian Council on Learning, 2007. Survey of household spending on the arts. Data for the cities of Montreal and Toronto are not available. Source: Canadian Council on Learning, 2007. Survey of household spending on the arts.

be" pillar (lower and fewer households across the country have been spending money on going to museums, art galleries, or live performances, and on private newspapers and magazines). Given the economic downturn and Canadian's right-wing politics, the decline shows that to get more—especially, consider that more of the Statistics Canada data used to calculate this year's scores is from

2007, which was a boom time compared with 2006. Cappon wishes that educational engagement would be sacrificed in the name of cutting. "Obviously what we don't want is a future in which the C.I.J. declines even more because of the recession," Cappon says. "In fact, all right, there is some good news in the 'learning to be' pillar. Internet use is up 10 per cent, which suggests to Cappon that people

CANADA'S MOST ACTIVE CITIES

Hockey is Canada's sport of choice, but across the country there are signs that athletic activities generally are a major national pastime. More than half of all households in Calgary, Ottawa, Gatineau, Victoria and Saskatoon spent money on sports and recreation during 2006, according to the latest report by the Canadian Council on Learning. The Ottawa-based organization measures life-long learning opportunities in communities, and leisure pursuits are integral to cultural engagement—modern-day play before clubs may feel more connected to their hometowns. Go team.

PER CENT WHO SPEND ON SPORTS & RECREATION

CITY	PER CENT WHO SPEND ON SPORTS & RECREATION
Calgary	54.3%
Ottawa-Gatineau	52.3
Victoria	46.7
Saskatoon	52.4
Halifax	46.1
Winnipeg	45.1
Vancouver	47.9
London, ON	47.4
Burlington	47.3
Charlottetown	46.3
Fredericton	45.3
St. John's	45.1
Windsor	44.9
Toronto	42.8
Moncton, N.B.	40.2
Seattle, B.C.	38.4
Quebec City	37.9
Montreal	33.8

Source: Statistics Canada, based on data collected on national data. Survey of Household Spending, 2006. Unless otherwise noted, data are from Statistics Canada, National Household Survey.

For more information, visit www50.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/95-01/2006001/article/00001.htm



During economic downturns it's key for employers to put even more funds into training



may be keeping abreast of current events or at least if they aren't reading hard-copy magazines and newspapers as much. And books are the one type of medium that have held up best spending put to much money on as ever.

There is also a school of thought that says the recession may send people running to community events. Budget-conscious families may choose the "free stuff" route, visiting local shows and sporting events in lieu of expensive vacations beyond their city limits. And people disillusioned with the economy may actually want to be more culturally engaged as a way of coping, says Carlson. "The fundamental pivot point for business is to understand what things mean," he explains. So when the realities of daily life begin to unravel and our reality is compromised by uncertainty—because of a pay cut, job loss or the sudden personal relationships that often accompany financial stress—a fun afternoon playing on the town hockey team is appreciating a local artist's work may actually work as well.

If that were to happen, it would do the city and the country some good. When people invest regularly in the cultural aspects of a community, they are more likely to identify with that place as part of who they are, says Williams, because they have a financial stake

in it. He has found that how people spend their disposable income is also indicative of their identity. The more people don't "spending money" toward a community's own activities, the more likely they are to feel that they belong there.

Obviously that can help a city regain its character during tough times, when they might otherwise move away for better employment opportunities. "Culture can create the kind of place where people want to live," says Kelly Hall, founder of 100 Strategies Research in Hamilton, which studies the impact of the arts in Canada. He sees a link between economy and way of life in a place. "There's a lot of research now looking at how people are picking jobs and it's not just about the job itself, it's about what kind of lifestyle the company offers. A place where people want to live is probably going to have a better economic recovery than one that's where it bled down to," he explains.

Despite the gloom in the overall scores of most communities, there is one bright spot that Carlson says is encouraging. The "learning-to-do" pillar has been on a steady incline for the last four years. This pillar measures the proportion of employers offering job-related training and the proportion of Canadian adults who participate in it, plus the average travel time to vocational schools in the community. Historically, Canada has been a low performer on this front relative to other G8 countries. During the worst economic boom, however, businesses were more willing to invest in their staff's education, explains Carlson, and helping them develop transferable skills.

In Toronto, Winnipeg and Edmonton, roughly two thirds of employers have offered



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their staff job-related training. In Quebec City, a stunning 70 per cent of employees have done the same, up from 48 per cent. But this data goes back as far as 2009, which means it is pre-recessionary. That has some observers worried as we may see the third reversal soon. "It's a good product, if you were a pessimist, that this sector will decline next year," says Cappon, as more and more employers cut their spending on human infrastructure. Anecdotal data are signs that an industry is in trouble. "People are being laid off in the bush," an official at the OECD told Cappon.

If it does happen widely in communities across the country, Cappon warns that Canada could actually be worse off once it comes out of a recession—many people in the labour force will be older, and our skill sets will have stagnated. He stresses the importance of employees actually putting more money into job-related training during this economic downturn as a way of fortifying the abilities of their staff, so that when the economy recovers, businesses and their surrounding community will emerge stronger than before the downturn.

It helps that the other two pillars, "learning to know" and "learning to live together," have been barely budged over the last four years. This means that post-secondary education participation, youth literacy and high school dropout rates have been stable. And when it comes to living together, the concentration scores needed in Canada's communities signal that a core group of individuals are participating in social clubs and religious groups such as church groups and bridge clubs, as well as interacting with people from other cultures regularly.

Across the board, experts say that each community has to determine for itself what kinds of training are most important to the people who live there. The CCL has developed an electronic simulator that allows cities to hyperactively improve their scores in any one of the pillars to see how it would impact their overall standing.

Even in Calgary there is room for improvement, says Carlson, who thinks the city needs a contemporary art museum. Communities get distracted by short-term issues, he notes, such as potholes and roads. While those are important, Carlson believes we need to focus on creating a civic identity. That, he argues, is central to lifelong learning—offering citizens a chance to determine who they are, and why they are central to a place's success. "If community—secondary persons, city—really wants to maximize the potential of its members, the issue is how do we create the particular conditions that will allow people to be more fulfilled," says Carlson. "That's a fundamental question for a successful society." ■



QUEBEC VS. WINDSOR

A tale of two cities and their lessons of economic resilience

BY PAUL WELLS — As the headwaters of the Canadian Council on Learning in downtown Ottawa, researchers have an annotated chart they use to demonstrate the relationship between learning and the job market.

It's a standard graph: unemployment rate up the vertical axis, and the OECD Composite Learning Index (CLI) across the horizontal axis. The dots are Canadian cities. And the dots move to show how the cities evolved along both measures from 2006 to 2009.

Two of the dots perform as eloquent case over that period. In 2006 Quebec City stood

at 66 on the CLI, well behind Windsor, Ont., at 75. But Windsor's nearly static score then, rising to 76 before falling to 74. Quebec City, on the other hand, roars well to the right of its regional peers, from 66 in 2006 to 75 in 2009. Only Fredericton has increased its CLI score more rapidly over the past three years.

But it's what happens to unemployment in Quebec City and Windsor that's most telling. While it's been making those rapid advances in learning, or adding up to Windsor's score and then passing it, Quebec City's unemployment has fallen markedly, from 6.8 per cent in 2006 to 5.3 per cent in 2008. And while Windsor's total learning score was going nowhere, its jobless rate shot up, from 10.3 per cent to 15.2 per cent over the same period.

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That's an exaggerated version of a trend CCL investigators have noticed throughout their study: a higher score on the Composite Learning Index, representing better learning conditions, makes a community more likely to prosper economically and socially. "This brings up the idea of resilience," Paul Cappon, the CCL's president, says.

A population that's better educated and better able to learn has a better chance of "responding and accommodating successfully to the shocks and stresses of everyday life."

AS QUEBEC'S CUI rises, its unemployment rate dropped



Quebec is in a post-industrial renaissance. In Windsor, industry is still collapsing.

The extent of that phenomenon is being traced right now by the economic recession—this year's CUI is based on data from before the boom—and will be borne out in future editions of the learning survey. Cappon predicts the recession will bring a decline in "learning to do" across the country, as tighter budgets lead businesses and employers to spend less on on-the-job training. "I hope I'm wrong," he says.

If he's right, Quebec City's fair progress could stall. Its rapid progress in the CUI is due almost entirely to a huge increase in "learning to do," or workplace education and training.

Part of that is due to a Quebec-wide improvement in on-the-job learning opportunities, thanks to an act passed by Lucien Bouchard's

Parl. Québecois government in 1995 that requires businesses to set aside one per cent of their budget for employee skills development. That law has allowed the province to make up ground, where it was lagged behind the Canadian average.

But "learning to do" has progressed much more quickly in Quebec City than the rest of the province. Cappon's hunch is that that's because of a working urban development success story, the resurgence of the St. Roch district in Quebec's lower town. Since 1980 a succession of mayors have moved municipal offices and taxpayer dollars to the neighborhood, transforming it from a run-down high unemployment zone into a showcase for arts, tech companies and university satellite campuses. All those tech companies put a high priority on employee training.

Windsor and Quebec City actually have a lot in common. They're just at different stages in their municipal history. Traditional industry collapsed in Quebec City half a century ago, and the '60s, '70s and '80s were a very difficult period in the city's history. Only the presence of a hefty and booming provincial government, which guaranteed plenty of office towers would stay full of technicians, cushioned the fall. But Quebec City had years to maven the end of an old way, it's now well into a post-industrial renaissance.

In Windsor the collapse of heavy industry is still happening. In several decades, the once-booming automotive industry of Detroit, Windsor's far larger twin just across the St. Clair River, and the never-ending crisis of the automotive industry. The old ways won't die in Windsor, although like Henry Ford's parrot they're not looking very good these days. So new ways are slower to arrive.

Still, the CCL survey shows a couple of bright spots in Windsor. It's made progress on "learning to know," thanks to higher post-secondary education. And Windsor has seen an uptick in "learning to do," though not as strongly as Quebec City. Cappon worries that the increase in on-the-job learning in Windsor might not be as valuable either, if its employees move from one automotive production line to another. "The big question going forward will be, are those new skills transferable?" he says. ■

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CHANNELLING AUTISM

A Danish tech firm harnesses the power of the autistic brain

BY LIANNE GEORGE • For the first two years of his life, Lars Sonne appeared to be developing normally, a happy boy, much like his older brothers. But at the age of two, roughly 18 years ago, Lars started to remain very focused. "As a kindergarten, he wouldn't play with others," says his father, Thorkil Sonne, a Danish software executive, speaking from his office in Copenhagen. "He would only be on his own, in on a swing for hours." For several months, psychologists observed the boy closely, and ultimately delivered a devastating diagnosis: "We were told [that our son has] a lifelong disability called childhood autism," says Sonne. "It was scary to realize how many doors would be closed to him."

As time progressed, Sonne noted some truly remarkable about Lars. He had few friends—he was far too easy to bully—but he had intense, deeply cerebral interests, like astronomy, robot systems and math. "When he starts focusing on something, he is so clever," he says. "He can learn so much, it's quite extraordinary." Once, when Lars was seven, Sonne forced him crawling on all fours at daycare, made up of dozens of stacked boxes, nurseries and cribs. Only later, when Sonne happened to see a magazine article on his brother's life, did he realize that what his son had done was a replica, from memory, of an intricate road map of western Europe, reproduced without a single error.

By then, the extraordinary capabilities of the autistic child had become familiar ground to Sonne. As chairman of his local autism society chapter, he spoke to dozens of parents of high-functioning kids with extraordinary cognitive abilities. "Their skills were far differently wired with computers," he says, "and they were very familiar with the Internet." But they also faced many of the same social obstacles as Lars—difficulty interacting, an inability to read tone or body language, an intolerance of change, and an extreme sensitivity to distractions—all things that, parents feared, would render their children virtually unemployable in a conventional work setting. Everywhere, Sonne found, the same: about autism was dominated by talk of weakness. But when he looked at gifted young people like his son, he remembered a different, untapped potential.

In 2004, Sonne referenced his intense and focused Specialisterne—Danish for "The

Specialists"—the first company in the world whose business model caters to employees with autism spectrum disorders (ASDs). Its employees, 75 per cent of whom have some form of autism, are specialists in software testing—challenging, repetitive tasks that demand extreme accuracy and intense focus. Because of his first-hand knowledge of the software business, Sonne believed that if he could attract major companies to embrace the testing of their products by his consultants, he could save them millions in defect prevention, free up their creative employees from "the boring work," create a profitable business, and offer meaningful

work to employees with special challenges. But first he had to find a way to make his consultants and the extraordinary resources his consultants had to offer. Thorkil Sonne, 50, is a typical Specialisterne employee. He has a mild form of autism called Asperger's syndrome. "I have an ability to see when something deviates," he told the Danish newspaper *Udvald* in 2005. "It's kind of like to the eye. It's an ability many people don't seem to have, but to me it's natural." Sonne came to Specialisterne after his teaching career didn't pan out. He couched at the technical aspects of education, he said, but

he could not seem to connect with the children. "I like working here," he said. "I don't have to try to be anything other than myself. Autism I can become obsessed with any work and that's fine. In another company I might be expected to make small talk and be flexible. Here I can just concentrate on my work without being considered anti-social."

Five years in, the company now employs 60 consultants who have proven so skilled at their work they have many commitments from their past clients, from multinational clients including Microsoft, CSC, Oracle and LEGO. The company's annual revenue has increased by 50 per cent year over year, by 2007, it was



THORKIL SONNE (above), a software executive, saw untapped potential in those with ASD.

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are thought to be the result of some combination of misperceptions, diagnostic, environmental factors and genetics. In Canada, one in 156 children now born with autism—with varying rates that range from mild to requiring 24/7 care. "Just now what's happening," says Sandra McKay, chair of the Autism Society Canada, "is that we're going to get a lot of children and young adults who are diagnosed 10, 15 years ago who are going to be entering the work force, and it's like, what do we do now?"

Currently, only six per cent of adults with autism find full-time work—even though half of all individuals with ASDs are high-functioning, meaning they don't have an intellectual disability. For this group, their greatest obstacle pertains to social expectations. The world is simply not configured to accommodate their version of "normal" behaviour.

To shed light on why in some bright people are languishing—and whether the barriers they face are real or socially constructed—David Hogue of the University of New Hampshire Institute on Disability conducted a study of successfully employed autistic adults to determine what they had in common. Overall, he said, "the common factor from employment across almost as a spectrum is you can relate to a worker."

The challenges employers as pertained to him were pretty consistent for autistic employees in general: don't like well as job interviews (eye contact and small talk are a challenge). They can be hyper-sensitive to noise, light or scent, and are often uncomfortable working in open concept spaces. Most commonly, they're confused with very specific instructions, a great deal of consistency, and advancement of any changes and/or routine. "Once employees saw these things, they realized it was a cost of doing business," says Hogue. "But supervisors said we're not a greater cost than someone else. It's just different."

In fact, ironically, Hogue's research showed that the quirk that made social interaction challenging for people with autism was often the very thing that made them great employees. For instance, a person with autism, he says, is not going to get caught up in office gossip or politics. They're not going to use sarcasm, or lie, or steal. Universally, these employees were said to be loyal, punctual and thorough. "I think the thing the supervisor would like most is that the work is done," says Hogue. "If they're told, 'Your break is tomorrow,' they would take tomorrow. Not one or 11. Just 10."

The origins of Specialized care is that it was set up to address "odd" behaviour and make it the norm. "They are the 'normal,'" says Hogue. "Many have never had a job before. They might not have an education, but we don't care." Instead of a traditional

interview, Specialized engages prospective candidates in a five-month training process to determine where they excel. "We use their personality, their vocational, personal and social competencies, and their learning profile," says Hogue, "and we try out different assignments and work hours and find out what kind of stress level would go well with them." Once they're hired, candidates typically work 25 to 30 hours per week.

CONSULTANTS work with clients like LEGO and Microsoft



severely per cent of their work is performed on-site at clients' facilities. To ease the relationship, clients are given a short introduction to autism and to the firm's culture. Specialized also offers full-time, on-call response staff who are trained to deal with any situation that may arise. Disruptions, although frequent, do happen. In one instance, a telephone conference, disturbed by a complete irregularity in his work, would group and pass the halfway between his desk and the main room every time it happened. The day after the support staff who stepped in to

counsel the consultant. In another case, a consultant described as a brilliant mathematician would occasionally be hit with bouts of depression. On those days, he would simply get up and leave. A support person would be called upon to find a substitute.

Overnighting, however, clients have expressed great satisfaction with the work Specialized does. Microsoft Denmark, for example, hired its consultants to run its Windows XP Mobile Centre. "The assignment could have been solved by one of our own employees," said Niels Børst Larsen, business group lead of Microsoft Denmark, "but there was a great risk that he or she would lose the ability to concentrate after repeating the assignment a couple of times. With Specialized, the risk is non-existent. Their ability to concentrate remains intact, even after solving the same task many

Their ability to concentrate is intact, even after solving the same task many times

times over. Furthermore, they have a future ability to focus on tasks and attention."

In December, candidates who the company was an solid footing and ready to take it to the next level. Some sold the company to the Specialized People Foundation, which he created, for one Danish krona. "The role of Specialized is still to make money," he says, "but the money will not go to external services, but to the foundation, and the foundation will use the money for creating jobs and developing new knowledge, new services." He hopes a that, by the time June 18, the world will be a little more hospitable to people like him. "My goal is to showcase to demonstrate what happens if we embrace people with autism instead of keep on thinking they are problems to our society," he says. "Otherwise, they have no choices." ■



THAILAND: NEW WASHROOM JUST FOR 'LADYBOYS'

A stick figure, one half the height of the other, is the symbol of a transgendered girl, in the new Bangkok-based school for "transsexual" students in Thailand's Bangkok Secondary School. The washrooms were installed for "ladyboys," about 10 per cent of students, who identify as transgendered. The facilities are meant to ease tension from other boys in male washrooms, but the idea came to a society that's already very tolerant of gay and transgendered people.



SHOULD YOU LET YOUR KIDS DRINK AT HOME?

Some parents think it's the safest option; experts aren't so sure

BY CHARLIE GILLIS • Chris Seger knew her son Sean would party hard the night of his graduation—and she knew she'd want to enjoy the moment the door closed and he'd be home. So the Calgary mom took matters into her own hands, avoiding the extra cost of 2007 from Sean's small high school to her age range of the city's first post-conviction bar. There, with the help of a couple of other parents, she assembled an environment for teenage boozing that Elmer the Safety Elephant knew it might have endorsed. "When the kids got home, they handed over their keys and we closed the gate behind them," she recalls. "We had a barbecue. We gave them some food. We set out crates of water so they wouldn't get dehydrated. We told them all that if at any point they didn't feel comfortable, they were welcome to come into the house."

Seger stepped short of actually supplying alcohol, about half the kids who attended had not yet reached Alberta's legal drinking age of 18. Still, the 20 or so partygoers seemed to have a good time. Many brought liquor, and in the night were on, the town crashed

in 1995 set up in the yard. As Seger made final-guy sandwiches the next morning, a still-sleepy boy approached her to show off a pocketful of bottle caps—his first trophy. He'd qualified. "I think the kids just wanted to have fun, right?" she says. "That's what we want. It's just make sure they're safe."

The party was just the answer to a question thousands of parents across the country will be asking themselves as graduation time nears: if you know your teenager is going to drink, is it better to let them do so at home, under your watchful eye? To watch the Alberta mom's sense of certainty. Caught in a bind of conflicting theories and social pressures, adults are spoiled on the one hand by the spectre of their teenagers headbanging

to bush parties—or to some stranger's place where the parents can't be home (What if they combine a car with a drunk driver? What if they over-drive and need medical help?). Yet the stigma attached to chaperoned boozing remains as powerful as ever. Neighbours frown, some colleges, which can lead to police paying unwanted attention. Health care professionals warn about maddening young people

toward alcohol before they're ready to cope with an effect.

First advocates of so-called "safe partying," stop short of advising what to do about the parent's dilemma of all. "Supervised drinking," it is sometimes called, may be reducing the risk of physical injury, says Catherine Linder, a senior professor at the University of Calgary. "That you're also sending the message that it's okay for them to drink." Linder is no hardliner, but

version of safe partying. For teenagers in crisis, emergency centres, teachers and rock add arrangements for sober transportation. In short, the no-regulated arrangements are going to drink. Let her ambivalence highlights the depth of the dilemma. If someone who has made a study of trends and drinking

feels unqualified to pass judgment on the pros and cons, what's a parent supposed to think? Since the temperance movement of the late 19th century, the nation's youth have been at the centre of public policy rages of one over alcohol—alcoholism that is innocent herbivore need of protection and hedonism requiring control. But as attitudes turned before have softened, the temperance has steadily shifted



from sipping underage drinking is mitigating its toll—a toll that remains stubbornly high. Nearly one in four teenagers who had behind the wheel each year are over the legal alcohol limit, while fully 60 per cent of Ontario teens polled in a 2007 study said they'd been driven at least once in the last year by someone who had been drinking. One in 10 high school students, meanwhile, is likely to have unplanned sex while under the influence of alcohol, according to a recent federal government report, and experts almost universally cite liquor as a leading risk factor for sexual victimization of teenage girls.

This dismal ledger has changed little in the past couple of decades—a sad truth that is reinforced by a parade of tragedies every graduation season. Last June, an 18-year-old boy who was asked a birthday party near Regina was killed while trying to steal a lawn tractor from a nearby golf course at about 1 a.m. he crashed into a chain-link fence. The student made national headlines, yet four days later, in West Vancouver, a Grade 11 student was criminally injured while drunkenly jaywalking around a parking lot on SLV during another impromptu celebration. Similar tales of tragedy unfold each year.

Still wonder, then, if some parents have begun questioning the orthodoxy behind zero tolerance. "If the statistics aren't helping, then that tells me the status quo isn't working," says Tim Clarke, a 45-year-old graphic designer from Halifax with two teenage kids. "I think if my 15-year-old came to me and said she'd like to have some friends over and have a few beers, I'd be inclined to consider it." At the heart of this argument lies classic harm-reduction theory: if you can't keep it in, you might at least mitigate the damage. But that's been supplemented in recent years by the notion that parents can encourage responsible drinking by removing the angst of every surrounding booze—wouldn't it be nice that his parent new life in today's generation of parents embraces such, those social norms of drinking. "Maybe forbidding even a taste of wine with a meal actually encourage secrecy and misadventure?" Eric Asmus, the *New York Times* wine critic and a parent of two teenage boys, wrote last year in a widely e-mailed column. "Some experts think so."

Actually, some experts go a good deal further. One 2004 survey by researchers at Wake Forest University in North Carolina found that teens who engage in some drinking with their parents were only one-third as likely to indulge in heavy drinking as those who don't. (Heavy drinking was defined as five or more consecutive drinks in the two weeks before the data were collected in the survey.) Another oft-cited study, published in 1981 by Harvard psychiatry professor George Vaillant, found

that men who grew up in families where alcohol was forbidden were seven times more likely to be alcoholics than those who came from families that served once a month.

Those numbers sound convincing, but they're still not enough to persuade many clinicians to publicly endorse supervised drinking. Sherril Vohlt, a University of Calgary

psychologist who works at the Calgary Health Region's addiction centre, points to a 2007 Swedish study that flatly contradicts the Wake Forest and Harvard research, concluding that permission to drink or liquor increases the chance kids will engage in binge drinking. Vohlt, who specializes in addictions and family conflict, believes the "ripple effect" of parental endorsement is to encourage kids to experiment further. "It really confuses them to see the message this way," he says. "When kids reach adolescence they are going to engage in some rebellion. Your job as a parent is to resist that. In your job isn't to be their buddy and provide them with a drinking spot."

YOUR JOB AS A PARENT ISN'T TO BE THEIR BUDDY AND PROVIDE THEM WITH A DRINKING SPOT

To David Toplin, a clinical psychologist from Richmond Hill, Ont., whether you allow your teenagers to drink at home is also less important than the sort of conversation you have with them about alcohol. "Think about what conditions responsible drinking, how alcohol affects the body, what constitutes impairment," he says. Parents are considering going harder to their teenagers now: first consider a shift of variables, says Toplin, who chairs the substance abuse section of the Canadian Psychological Association. These range from the mental capacity and maturity of the child to the history of drunkenness in the family. "If, as a parent, you and your granddaddy drink a one-four every Friday night," he points out, "that definition of responsible drinking may be to have 14 beers."

Similar doubts prevail in mainstream Canadian society, which is nowhere near to ditching teenageism, the culture of celebrating the way some European countries do. While many parents allow alcohol to supply alcohol to their own kids in the privacy of their own homes, plenty of parents nevertheless opt for zero tolerance. Patty Wilson, a 45-year-old mother in Fredericton with two teenagers, has kept her house dry since her kids were born—even though the dad her husband are not teetotalers. "It was just something that I didn't want my kids to grow up with," she says. "My son's 19 now, but I still won't let him and his friends drink in the house. I told him that what his boys are for." Wilson believes her inflexibleity has paid off: both of her children seem to have got the message that it's

not gone to parties and there's been drinking," one woman with a daughter in Grade 12 said during a recent public meeting the following week. "But I think if you're a trustee, you should just step down."

McVeigh's long record of civic service saw her through the crisis, she was elected to the board last year (she did not return calls from Maclean's). Still, her experience highlights the pitfalls of trying to be the "cool" parent who lets the liquor flow under their roof. No matter how carefully you control the environment, some kids are going to take full advantage of the chance to get loaded. Any hope of control, meanwhile, can quickly be crushed by unrealistic expectations. Such was the case in Douglas, Minn., one month ago, when a couple held a party for their 18-year-old son. Eighteen is the legal drinking age in Minnesota, but younger people attended, and at some point a 15-year-old girl nondered outdoors onto the icy Minnesota deck. How much she'd been drinking is not yet clear, but she became disoriented, fell down and froze to death in a vacant lot. Police are now considering charges against the adults for supplying liquor to minors.

It was just that sort of scenario that Chris Seger, the Calgary mother, had in mind when she laid the ground rules for her party. The event was limited to guests of the school, Pease Hills Academy, and all the partygoers needed consent from their parents. She issued that to no one less than 100 people, asking they were politely by their folks. Seger had never hosted such a party before, so the success of the event came as something of a surprise. To keep a score of teenagers safe, while sending them home happy, was proof that it is possible to walk the line between accommodating your kids' curiosity and indulging them. Then again, she wouldn't want to do it often. It was a lot of work, she admits, and a momentous responsibility—testimony, you could say, that walking that line will never be easy. ■

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Headscarf:
A March like
'factory' of artists
comes up with her
strange fashion
statements and
accessories

Christian Aquilino
(right) was
accused of ripping
off Gaga's look.
Aquilino scoffed,
'I'm not sure 'who
this person is.'

We have songs
to thank for the
proliferation of
pointless pop stars,
including my voice
(right) and Katy
Perry (below)

Microphone video
log: every hitchy
episode of *Trans-
mission* Geyserman
begins with a 200
throat-inspired clip.

The *Star* made
out of their a
vibrant Lady
Gaga anniversary
was copied by
Perry (below) and
Perry (below)

This is the site
that should
have been
the most
important
thing to
remember
about the
show

Fame

"Starting around Lady Gaga's first tour to earth from her extraterrestrial culture can require at times 'Active audience participation'."

To begin very kindly, publishing episode of *Transmission Generation*, the online video log of Lady Gaga, the planet's newest pop sensation, who could well be described as Ziggy Stardust's second arrival. On TV space: Her star has hit full, when she launched her debut album, *The Fame*. Gaga's chart-topping dance tracks plays fuller, just Downbeat and The Glee have been perpetually in the air. While other pop stars are bigging about feelings, emotions talked around, and hot bedded polished views, Lady Gaga's transmission is a multimedia orgy of funk, performance, and free-floating common sense about how thoroughly she plans to saturate the public with her art. "I don't like bling," she said recently in an interview. "I think it ruins the mystery of the artist. I don't really want people to care too much what I think about anything other than art and fashion and music."

Another thing Lady Gaga doesn't reach for is parts. Even those who have never heard her music—feminine, disco influenced dance tracks—may have come across media reports about her aversion to parts. More often than sex, she'd rather appear at red carpet events, on TV interviews and onstage in a braided afroed PVC bodysuit. "I think too many in my age," she told MSN. "I love the naked human body." Earlier this year in Chicago, she was stopped by police after wearing out in what would fairly be called under wear. "It was really funny," she later said, "because all you saw was this half naked girl on the street yelling at me like, 'it's fish oil! It's your art!' I was like, 'More reality, being photographed outside St. Paul's Cathedral in Moscow, she was mistaken for a prostitute by Russian cops and abused away.' It's very strange, to be completely honest. There are a lot of pop stars that don't wear pants," she told *Trip City* magazine, adding, "I'm very gay and I've got hairy legs." She's the thing. For one, it's not sexy. Clothes and then some clothes. Have always been there. On June 23, when she appears in Toronto at the MuchMusic Video Awards, Canada's top television awards show and sold-out event.

Lady Gaga—she's still Joanne Angelianna Germanotta, 23—is not so much a who but a what. She is her own creation—a gender-bending, agnostic figure at her own amapica that "Gaga's no real name; she," she told our British interviewer when he pressed her "It's been that way for years and years." Helping her to execute her vision is a collective of young artists known as The Haus of Gaga—based on Andy Warhol's Factory—that is devoted to outfitting her in propulsive design, producing novel choreography, art directing her performances, and generally keeping her 10 steps ahead of every other mainstream artist, even when she's on the main stages of things (recently she has surprised audiences on American Idol, Das

After *Week End* and *The Today Show*). During the press has even processed one of her best-known fashion statements, Gaga's once something-on-one more confounding: the hair bow made of hair, the expected eye-piercing bubble dress, the pushy tips, the purple shoes on top she carried off around London the giant gold metal headpiece that orbited her head while she charmed crowds and romo-herald with Ellen DeGeneres on *Today*. TV. An over-the-top sexuality is part of her shock but her aim is never to look conventionally attractive. Rather, she often dresses her body, playing with shape and proportion to flirt half the time she could be a mutant. "You'll never see me in flip flops and a bikini," she told the *New York Times*.

There is a school of pop stardom that espouses "authenticity." It says your songs should be controversial, and reveal your true self. For Justin Timberlake, this means bringing your pants to award shows. For Britney Spears, it means allowing yourself to be photographed jumping jacks in underwear, cloth, late in the night, laid in the ether, so that fans will see you're just like them. The danger, however, is that digital-age celebrities become so "real" they are boring. Legendary producer Tommy Mottola, speaking recently of Jessica Simpson's career trajectory—why the race failed so quickly after the making of the MTV reality show *Nobody's Perfect*—told Vanity Fair: "That kind of exposure—it's very revealing—but not necessarily the kind of thing audiences, though they would say it is the New normal, want

her singer in the end. It's a show of adventure, but you come down just as quickly."



SHE DOESN'T CARE FOR BEING 'REAL'—IT'S POP STAR AS ILLUSIONIST

reize pain, even the most mass-market artists around, Beyoncé and Garth Brooks, have exposed themselves to ridicule by releasing albums by alter egos—Sasha Fierce and Chris Gaines, respectively—buying themselves some freedom from the constraints of their own hard-won realism.

Lady Gaga, rather than flinching with alter ego, is bawling a page from the playbook of outrageous shock rocker Marilyn Manson. Like Manson (formerly Brian Hugh Warner), she never breeds character, and she has, her whole life, a performance. "It's not just a show for me," Manson once told MTV. "It's my life. I live my art and I think people are starting to understand that. They don't understand me, but they're starting to understand where I fit into the world."

Of course, Gaga, like Manson, did at one point have parents and a civilian name. She, too, was born in New York's Lower East Side to Italian-American parents. Her father was an insurance copypaper at At

the age of five, she started playing piano and by 13, she was writing songs. As a teenager, she attended Convent of the Sacred Heart, the most prestigious high school that Caren Lee Sennedy and Nicky and Peter Elton attended. And the same time "When we had old-fashy where we didn't have to wear uniforms, I used to wear my outfit and I would really get into it," she told *Close Daily*. "I lost me my self-confidence and I suppressed myself for a while."

Soon she began performing underground clubs in Manhattan. At 15, she staged a performance art show with her long-time collaborator (3) Lady Seagull. "I was lighting things on fire and doing go-go dances to Iron Maiden records in Indian headbands and a bikini," the talk-show host told *Justine Kim*. She loved the effect of drugs on stage, she said. There was never enough for this reason for her being so, she used to carry her own fan machine in her purse. In Lady Gaga's world, mainstream success



GAGA is a bubble-dancer, wearing body suits and carrying delivery systems, and she's been in the spotlight as well as in the spotlight.



and artistic punky have never been incompatible. At 15, after dropping out of an school in New York, she moved to Los Angeles and signed a deal with Def Jam Records after music mogul L.A. Reid heard her singing down the hall from his office, but she was dropped three months later—she said they just didn't get her. She began writing songs for other people (she has co-written songs to albums by the Pussycat Dolls, Fergie, the New Kids on the Block and the Spice Girls), and eventually caught the attention of music execs at Interscope Records, where she signed on in 2007. Her album was co-produced by the R & B star, Kanye.

In her own mind, Lady Gaga's success marks the triumph of the weirdo art style in a world dominated by popular kids. She once described her audience as an "army of outsiders"—the artistic kids, the weird kids, the geeks, the kids everyone laughs at. "And I love that," she told MTV once, "because that's who I am. We're all together and they

get it. It's our own little world." But despite all of her outward provocations, Lady Gaga's path to success could not have been more conventional. Her songs are catchy and accessible, with colorful, wily, sexual euphemisms (among the most often repeated "I want to take a ride on your disco stick" and "I'm blurring with my mouth"). But there's nothing particularly earth-shattering about the music itself. "Like out of all the outward trappings of fashion and performance art," says Max Vukobrat, president of the Toronto youth orchestra from North York, "and because it's not really different from Disney

Spice. It gets discovered and it's already young age because you've got some musical talent, have someone who's got some credibility like an interest in you, work behind the scenes or with someone for a little while and then platform to your own album, being on the backs of other people's success until finally you're paired in No. 1 on the charts. That's different but not really the sword's edge." Of course, for Lady Gaga, outward trappings are the whole point. Her MD is pop star in disguise. To see beyond the image is to kill the effect. ■



MICHAEL JACKSON

After Jackson passed back the first of his 50-show residency in London by five days and postponed three more July shows until March 2010, fans who bought tickets on unofficial resale sites are unlikely to get their money back. Jackson's camp says the delay is because they need more time to set up the complex stage, but some reports say the gloves are made more time because he can't physically get through an entire show.

GAGA: JASON MERRITT/GETTY IMAGES; JACKSON: JEFFREY M. HARRIS/GETTY IMAGES



ERICKSON'S urban ideas live on in the Hugo Speech House, a former residence in West Vancouver; Museum of Glass in Tacoma, Wash.

A Canadian icon rediscovered

Arthur Erickson was hailed in obituaries last week as one of the greats. He wasn't always.

BY NANCY MACDONALD • It's his late entrance, says architect Steven Scalet, posing outside the Museum of Anthropology at UBC, designed by architect Erickson, whose death last week, at 84, saddened design fans everywhere. Scalet, who worked at Erickson's firm while he designed the museum, steps through a row of Douglas fir and western red cedar into a dark enclosure. As you walk down a steep, black ramp—nowhere near wheelchair clear—soft light seeps through the trees," he explains. Gradually, the moon grows bigger, and brighter, until "you see this amazing sky," he says, peering to 70-foot windows, the ocean just beyond it. A faint gleaming wall—the urban—the Great Hall is filled with soaring Hindu temples, painted in red, green and black.

Wildly misread Erickson's career work, the museum was completed in 1976. Three years later, in a 27-page New Yorker profile, architect U.S. architect Philip Johnson called Erickson "by far the greatest architect in Canada, and maybe the greatest on the continent." Flooded with blue-ribbon corporate and institutional clients, and with two universities (Simon Fraser and UBC), as well as Vancouver's downtown core, his firm, Erickson would nevertheless soothe his midlife insecurities with a passion for building things, partly his own doing.

Accolades have poured forth since his death, but the globe often views of his death, and an instant year he has been embraced as one of the great architects of our times. But it was not always thus. The tide began turning against him with the completion of Tacoma's Roy Thomson Hall in 1982. Blame for economic problems, common in concert halls, was

placed on the "dumb idea" to install 800 steel functional-colored tubes in his hall. He was snubbed by Expo 86—"which took place in his hometown," says developer and friend, Lou Milken—and in 1988 Canadian Embassy in Washington was "not the great building that was hoped for," but an "admirable" building, said the New York Times. [The project was funded by his, so much criticism, by his friend Pierre Trudeau.] By then, Erickson had three global offices, projects in Canada and South Africa, and a reputation for being "very difficult," says developer The California Plaza. But plans together in L.A., a visceral, "badly dated, even before its completion," wrote a critic. Its third tower would never go up.

In February 1993, Erickson, self-proclaimed Buddhist, died of a heart ailment. The cultural glass walls of Hilbert House, which had vaulted him to prominence in 1961, were covered by its new owners with pink tiles, as fine cedar varnishes removed with a chainsaw. Postmodernism, then, and architect like Frank Gehry were in, as was a global demand for centers and schools. Erickson, and his sharp angle, "Neoclassical and modernism," was out. It mutated out, says Sherry McElroy, head of the School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture at UBC, that concern, his mutual of choice

(the "result of our time," he hoped it) seemed and dedicated with age.

Five years ago, the story shifts. His experimental Waterfall Building, completed in 2001, at the Portland Hotel, opened in the Downtown Eastside in 2005, may have faded off the radar screen, but by the late '90s, says Vancouver developer Rob Runnes, young design firms had begun rediscovering his "Yin and Yang" work and its commitment to public space, scale and environment. In 2003, his gay Museum of Glass in Tacoma, Wash., featuring a 90-foot stainless-steel cone, opened to critical acclaim. The project suited Erickson perfectly. Intended to jump-start the revival of a once-time Pacific Northwest boom town, the museum was designed by a faded Pacific Coast architect with, one might imagine, a vaguely similar goal.

Only today do we really appreciate his vision and influence, says McKay. From inside the Low Councils in downtown Vancouver, "you look out through a glass roof at a stretch of green," something no one was doing in the '60s, until they'd given cities and towns over to the car, says Phyllis Lambert, founder of the Montreal-based Canadian Centre for Architecture. No architect has left a Canada city with as big an imprint as Erickson. Built on his hometown, the idea his urban ideas will live on. The Hilbert House, meanwhile, has been perfectly restored. Even the cedar varnishes, left to rot as a bare pile, have been saved. ■



BAD TASTE INTERNET CAN'T LET SLEEPING WOLVES LIE. A popular Internet meme—bring back the wolf shirt—has, well, brought back the wolf shirt. Amazon.com has seen a 3,000 per cent increase in sales of a six-pack of wolf T-shirts featuring three wolves howling in the moon. Sales seem to be spurred by gay reviews that increased traffic to the Amazon page. "Look," says one, "I'll tell you straight. I like checks with medals, and checks with medals like this shirt. What more could you ask for?"

LEDGER and Lily Cole in a scene from Terry Gilliam's *The Imaginarium of Dr. Parnassus*, shooting was halfway through when Ledger died

Macabre premonitions of Heath

It's shocking how eerily Heath Ledger's last screen role foreshadowed his tragic death

BY BRIAN D. JOHNSON • Screen months have passed since Heath Ledger died of an accidental drug overdose. But seeing his final screen role unveiled at the Cannes Film Festival last week will come as a brutal shock. In *The Imaginarium of Dr. Parnassus*, Terry Gilliam's surreal ode to a meddling, theme-complicated director is cast as Terry, a sickly baron who joins the dying lord after making a dramatic entrance. Our last glimpse of the actor, foreshadowed by a turret shot of the Heugodt Manor, shows him dangling off a ledge in London with a noose around his neck, presumed dead. And that's just the first of several scenes in Gilliam's film that, unbeknownst, serve as sinister premonitions of the actor's fate. "Could we say anything?" asks Gilliam, during a rare interview with *Newsweek* in Cannes. "I've become fatalistic about everything. I've seen what's out there. The ideas, the dialogue were very precise."

Gilliam was midway through shooting for months when Ledger died. He had just completed the London portion of the Canada U.K. co-production, and was preparing to film the remaining scenes in a Vancouver studio. After the news hit, he was ready to abandon the movie. "But so many people around me said, 'You can't do this. They just kept hammering me.' And within five weeks, Gilliam had mounted a cast of royal friends—Johnny Depp, Jude Law and Colin Farrell—to complete Ledger's role. The sleight of hand made surreal scenes come easily, most of Ledger's unbroken scenes take place behind a magic mirror, in a fantasy world conjured by Dr. Parnassus (Christopher Plummer). "The resurrection of Heath's death in the most shocking, big-screen way," says Gilliam, only half-joking. "Almost all the decision that

were forced upon us improved the film. It's as if Heath was still waiting on the film. We all felt his presence constantly." But then he adds, "The thing that bothers me is I wanted to know what Heath was going to do with those parts that Johnny, Colin and Jude did. He had so much stuff under his sleeves. I like to say he didn't die young. He was a very old soul." Ambient and wise.

The director recalls an exchange with Ledger on death. "I said, 'I know what you're doing.' He said, 'What are you talking about?' I said, 'You're doing Johnny Depp, aren't you?' He copied to it totally. And then Johnny taking it over. It's spooky." Then, apologetic, in a scene scripted for John to join James Dean, Rudolph Valentino and Princess Diana in a river of anonymity. "They're all dead," he says, as their lips quiver in on little boats. "They won't get back. They are forever young."

Although Gilliam considers this "terrifying stuff," he says he's mortified on keeping it in the movie. "That's where it's interesting, not having totally over-the-top death around you. They would have all been going crazy—'You can't do this. It's in bad taste.' It's not in bad taste. It's respectful to what we set out to do and what Heath wanted to do."

In discussing Ledger and all the strange coincidences, Gilliam often breaks into giddy

laughter, which might seem inappropriate, but he's been living with Ledger's death for a while. "The whole process has been so long and emotionally draining," he says. "We all cared so much about him. And you learn to deal with it through black humor. We were making jokes all the time. Mine was: 'It's a warning message. You don't want to play with and there are three ways to take over your part.'"

Gilliam has quite a record of cinematic productions. He's directed such movies as *The Adventures of Baron Munchausen*, which was banned, and *Brazil*, which was backdated. [Brazil was the favorite film of Peter Dinklage, who died of a drug overdose the day he was due to finally meet Gilliam, his boss.] *Lance*, a recent documentary, lost in L.A. markets, was made about the house that nurtured a Gilliam movie starring Depp as Don Quixote. But when asked if his films are connected, Gilliam replies, "None in that sense. There are forces at work I can't explain."

Gilliam is resigned to the fact that Ledger's death has opened the film—and Parnassus's performance in the role role. "It's actually not Heath's movie," he says. "But people come out of it, and they're just wrapped up in the whole business of Heath dying." But then it is a movie about death. "I've always been obsessed with mortality," says Gilliam. "That's one of the things that Heath and I shared in common. Neither of us had any fear of death. We'd just laugh at it." ■



WE'RE STALKING... MARY KAY LETOURNEAU

The notorious bar host who spent seven years in the slammer after an affair with a 16-year-old student in Washington "not for Twitter" party at a San Jose bar she may not be checking ID at the door for the 26-and-over crowd, but Letourneau will be signing autographs. The party is sure to be a hit, especially because V8 Fuelbox, 25, the student she was convicted of raping (she had two kids and later married) will sign records under the name DJ Headline.



HERE, JUDGE's new show *The Goode Family*, powered with liberal stereotypes, will likely disappoint some of the cult-movie director's fans

Liberal-bashing gets its own show

The director of 'Office Space' creates a do-good family that can't get anything right

BY JAMIE J. WERNERMAN • The creator of *Beavis and Butt Head* really seems to hate liberals. Mike Judge has a hip reputation based on *Beavis* and his cult movies *Office Space* and *Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events*, and he's heralded as a liberal conservative: the trailer for his upcoming movie, *Extract*, comically depicts him smoking. But beginning this week on ABC (and on Citytv in Canada), *The Goode Family*, one of a new crop of TV shows, will take a conservative, right-dissolution some of the best ways to get your fix of liberal-bashing. It's based on a 13 episode rotation of every anti-liberal stereotype in the history of comedy. Following on the heels of Judge's *King of the Hill* (which is ending this year after a 13-year run), in which coarse liberals were the bad guys, it's clear that while Judge may not be a conservative, he definitely wants you to know he's not a liberal.

Judge has never tried to be subtle, and *The Goode Family* hits you over the head with anti-PC jokes, right from the opening shot of a car covered with bumper stickers like "Support our troops and their opponents." The first, voiced by Judge (who sounds and looks similar to Mr. Van Drizel, the well-meaning hippie teacher on *Beavis*), is a left wing warden who says that it's all right to wear flag pins now that Obama is in the White House. In the pilot, we learn that he and his wife, Helen (Nancy Carell), tried to adopt an African baby but got a white South African child; unwilling to face up to their mistake, they disown him and call him "Obama." They're the ultimate examples of liberals who can't adjust to reality.

The theme of most episodes is that the family's attempts to do the decent liberal thing lead to disaster: a pet adoption drive

gets them in trouble with a militant animal rights organization; Helen tries to be frank and open about sex, but it just drives her teenage daughter (Linda Cardellini) into the arms of an immature, only movement. Even their dog winds up killing and eating local animals because his owners won't let him eat meat. No cartoon, not even the famously lib-berns *South Park* (Judge's friends with the show's creators and provided the voice of Kenny for the *South Park* movie), has ever depicted liberalism quite so much.

Judge's liberal-bashing has gotten more pronounced with three *King of the Hill* episodes after the 1994 season when the conservative hero, Hank Kingsley, was out to be just as much as his adversaries. But Judge has argued that the fan of *King of the Hill* "is to have the world be wrong and Hank be right," and in the last few seasons, the show has followed that directive. Hank is now proven right about every issue, and he leaves the other characters on how to ignore "the magazines and the talk shows" and follow traditional values. In recent years, Judge has even adapted classic right-of-center arguments into his work. In his dystopian comedy *Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events* (about a dumber-than-fun future) began by arguing that birth rates are dangerously low among liberals. "Watch any Mike Judge project, and you'll learn that real men don't drive hybrids, have small families, wear ties or watch cable television."



ACCORDING TO TV • JOE BIDEN

"In the new issue of *Newsweek*, they're calling Barack Obama 'a pack with global sex appeal,' which is a bit of coincidence because *Time* magazine is calling Joe Biden 'Chewbacca with fur phangs.'" —Jimmy Fallon

"When President Biden is on a trip to Beirut, Berlin, and Moscow The White House is calling it Operation Keep Biden Away From a Microphone." —Jay Leno

ties, wear ties or watch cable television.

Still, Judge is not a polemicist; he's good-natured enough to allow his do-gooder lib-erals a few sympathetic moments. Cardelli's character in particular is portrayed as generally well-meaning, if misguided, in her attempts to improve her relationships with her daughter and father (David Doyle, *Married... with Children*). If *American Dad!*, from Family Guy creator Seth MacFarlane, is the ultimate Bush-era show (about a right-wing CIA agent and his family), *The Goode Family* is a cartoon for the Obama era: a cartoon fan of aging hippies who say things like "What would Al Gore do?" but it's based on the assumption that these people, and not the think tank types, are running the world now.

Of course, silliness alone isn't what makes a show a hit, and ABC doesn't seem to have a great deal of faith that *The Goode Family* has much staying power. The network delayed its premiere until the regular season was over, often a sign that a show isn't considered likely to become a hit. And *Extract* has been delayed by its studio, Miramax, to an undiminished September release date. Judge's influence was at its peak in the '90s, when Bill Clinton was saying that "the era of big government is over" and conservatism was on the march, it may be, despite his nod to current events, that he has a 1990s outlook in a 21st-century world. Or it could be that he just has really bad luck with networks and studios. And there's nothing political about that. ■

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